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A Souvenir of the Opening of the Passmore Edwards Public Library at Plaistow, presented to Andrew Carnegie, Esq.

West Ham, May 9th, 1903.

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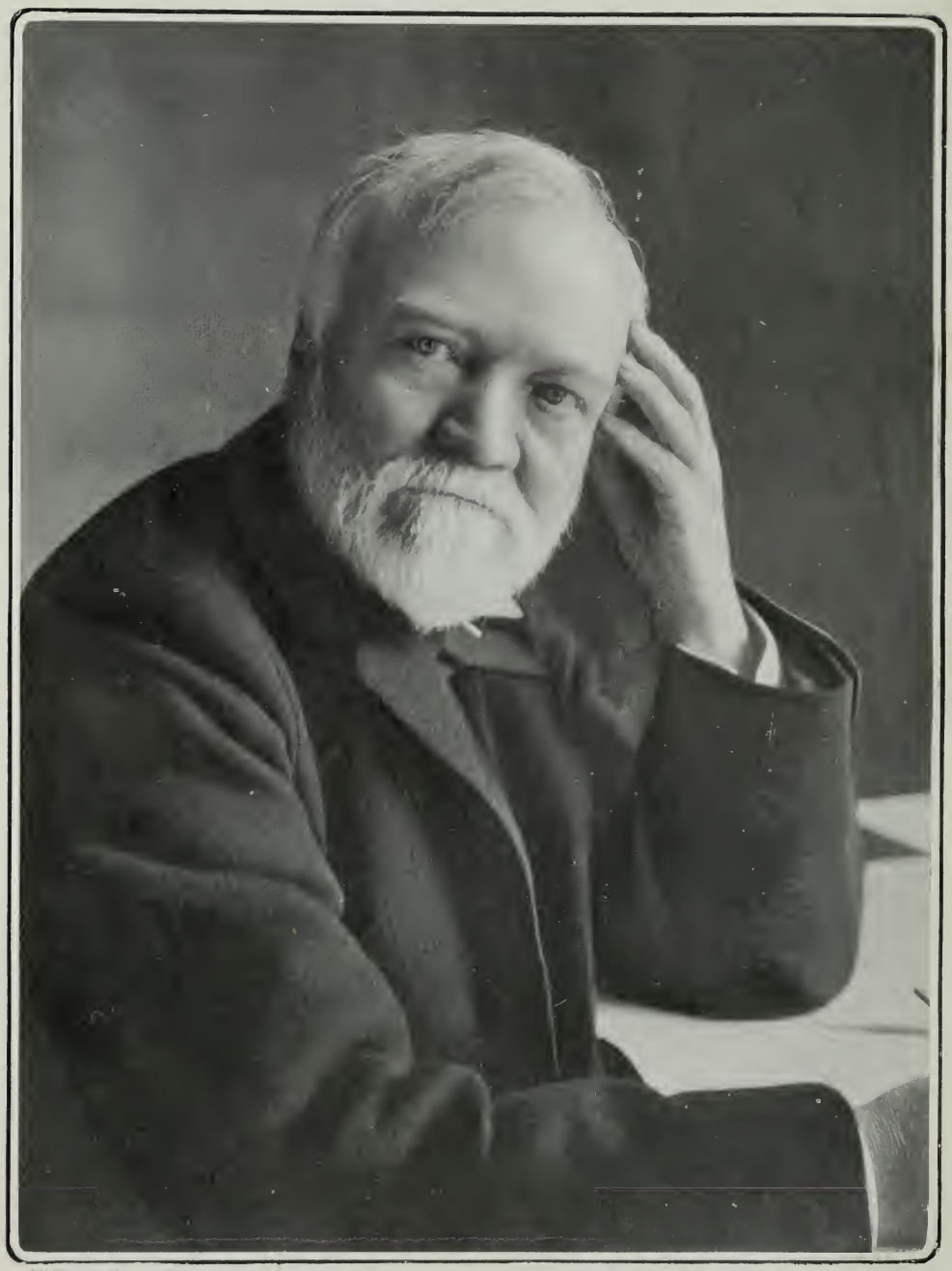

PHOTO. E. H. MILLS.

Mr. ANDREW CARNEGIE.

A SOUVENIR

PRESENTED BY THE

PUBLIC LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

TO

ANDREW CARNEGIE, ESQ.,

IN COMMEMORATION OF HIS OPENING THE

PASSMORE EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY, PLAISTOW,

ON MAY 9TH, 1903,

BEING

A RÉSUMÉ OF THE HISTORY OF THE WEST HAM MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES, TOGETHER WITH A DESCRIPTION OF THESE INSTITUTIONS,

FORMING A PART OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1902-3,

AND

CONTAINING MANY VIEWS OF THE LIBRARIES AND OTHER LOCAL BUILDINGS; PORTRAITS, ETC.

PREPARED BY

THE BOROUGH LIBRARIAN.

West Ham.

1903.

THE AVENUE PRESS LTD

STRATFORD, LONDON, E.

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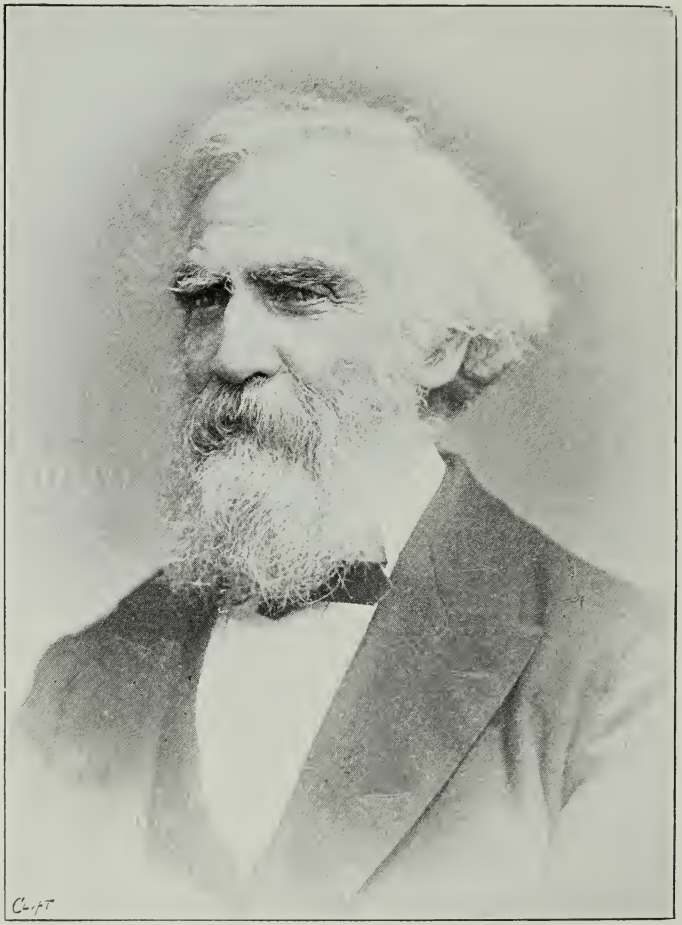
N.B. The variety in size and shape of the Portraits is due to the necessity of having to borrow several of the blocks, there being no other means of obtaining them in time for publication. For several of the blocks we are indebted to Dr. Pagenstecher, "South Essex Mail," Ward & Ward, etc.

PREFATORY NOTE.

In connection with the opening of the Passmore Edwards Library at Plaistow, it has been considered not inappropriate to issue the Report for 1902–3 as a Souvenir, of which the primary purpose should be to give Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who will open the building, a record of the Library Movement in West Ham, and of the progress of the Libraries which have been opened up to the present time. As, however, the opening of a new Borough Public Library is an event which will, no doubt, excite considerable interest, and give rise to thoughts and enquiries on the past history and value of these Institutions, it has been decided to publish a sufficient number of copies to also enable many of our fellow townsmen to possess themselves of this little memento, and thus preserve a record of interesting events, which, it is hoped, may be referred to in future as influences which have largely helped in the intellectual and moral progress of the Borough.

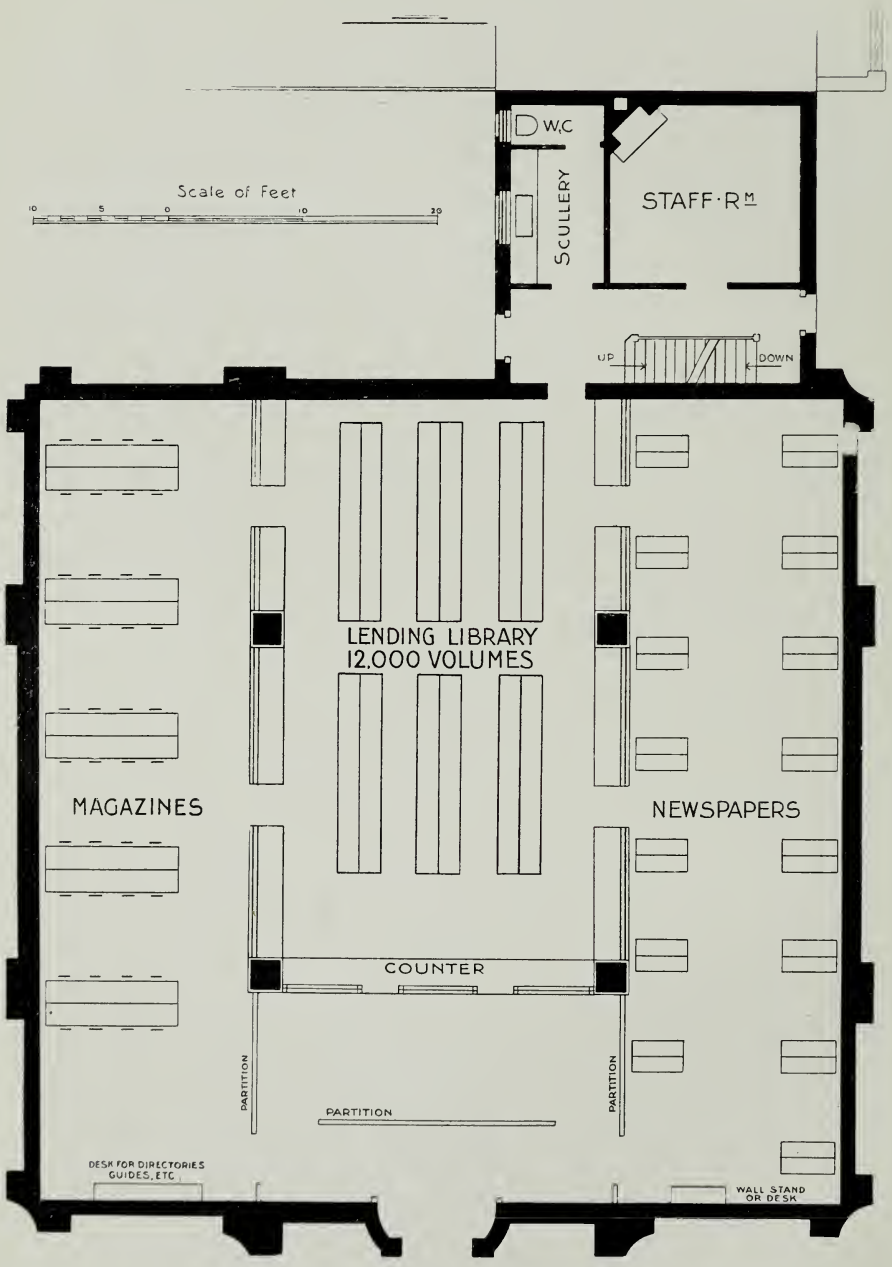
Although our immediate desire is to express our sincere thanks to Mr. Carnegie for the honour he has conferred upon us, by consenting to open the Plaistow Library, we cannot ignore the fact that we owe the existence of this Institution, in addition to many previous acts of beneficence and goodwill, to Mr. Passmore Edwards. His munificent gifts to our Hospitals, Libraries, Museums, Children's Clubs, &c., are known to all and will never be forgotten. As to Mr. Carnegie, who has earned his immense wealth by hard work and great ability, yet who only appreciates it for the benefit it may be to others, we need say little, as we should merely be repeating what we learn each day from the world's Press. Much more, however, could be added concerning the hundreds of Libraries, Universities, Hospitals, &c., founded by Messrs. Carnegie and Passmore Edwards, but we may not ignore their express desire to avoid publicity, so far as possible, in this connection.



Yours faithfully
J. Parsons Cleveland

PASSMORE EDWARDS LIBRARY, PLAISTOW, OPENED BY MR. A. CARNEGIE, MAY 9TH, 1903.—INTERIOR VIEW.

PASSMORE EDWARDS LIBRARY, PLAISTOW.



GROUND PLAN.

The Town Council

of the

County Borough of West Ham

(1902–1903).

The Worshipful the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Kettle, J.P.).

The Deputy-Mayor (Mr. Councillor Byford).

Chairman of the Public Libraries and Technical Instruction Committee (Mr. Councillor Williams).

Alderman *William R. Athey
,, John Henry Bethell
,, Abednego Bishop
,, *Charles Harbott, J.P.
,, Arthur Hayday
,, William Ivey
,, *Christopher Kelly
,, William Polley
,, John Moore Smith, J.P.
,, *Leslie William Spratt, J.P.
,, Richard White

Councillor Michael Adamson
,, Harry Baldock
,, Arthur Barber
,, Alexander Bothwell
,, *William Boulter
,, Aitken Brown
,, *Harry Davis
,, William Devenay
,, James Dilliway
,, Frederick Docksey
,, Henry Dyer
,, John Farnie
,, *Walter Godbold
,, James Thomas Halsey

Councillor George Handley
,, George John Hosking
,, *James Robert Hurry
,, Mark Hutt
,, *Albert Eynesford Jacobs
,, *George Saunders Jacobs
,, *Thomas Phillips Knight
,, Harold William Littler
,, *Ewell McAllen
,, George Archibald McDowall
,, Cornelius Mansfield
,, Richard Mansfield
,, *Henry Jerrold Nathan
,, Robert Page
,, Charles Edward Scrutton
,, *Enos Smith
,, William George Spittle
,, William James Thorne
,, Thomas Threlford

Councillor Thomas W. Watts

* Members of the Public Libraries and Technical Instruction Committee.

Town Clerk—Mr. Fred. E. Hilleary, LL.D.

Borough Treasurer—Mr. Fred. E. Harris, F.S.A.A.

Borough Engineer—Mr. J. G. Morley, A.M.I.C.E., M.S.I.

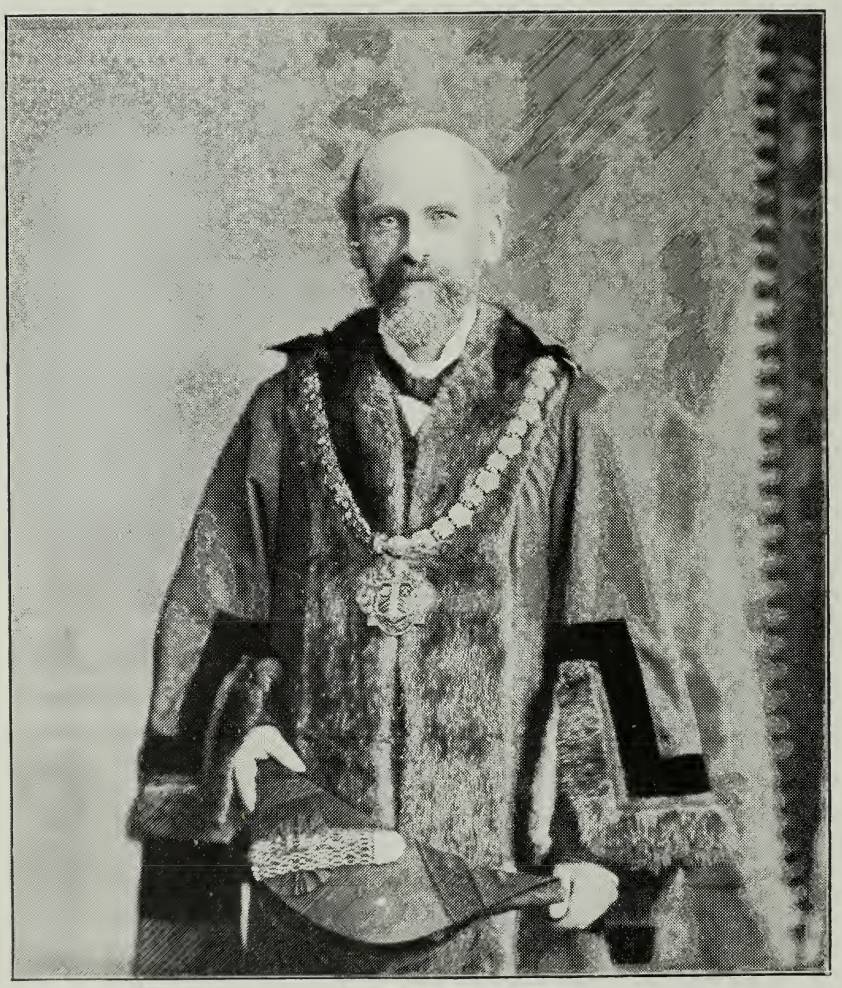
Electrical Engineer—Mr. J. K. Bock, A.M.I.E.E.

Medical Officer of Health—Dr. C. Sanders, M.B.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

Borough Librarian:—
Mr. A. Cotgreave, F.R.Hist.S.

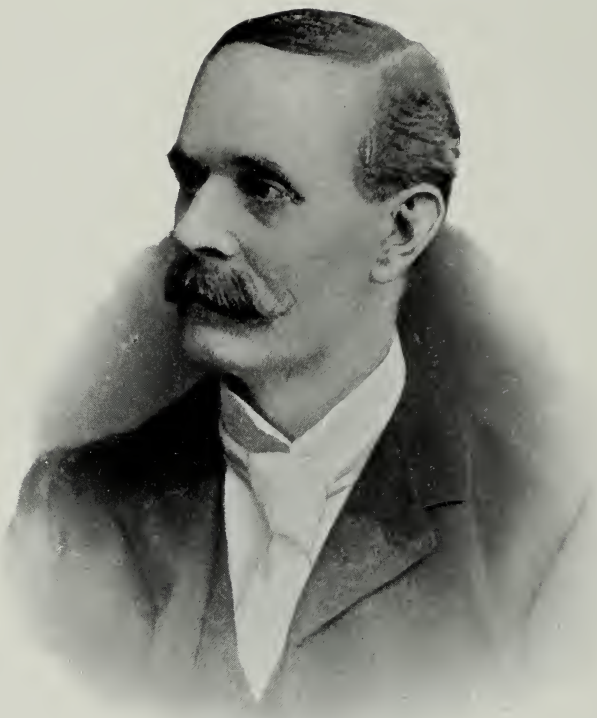
Principal of Institute:—
Mr. A. E. Briscoe, A.R.C.Sc., B.Sc.



THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

(ALDERMAN J. KETTLE, J.P.).

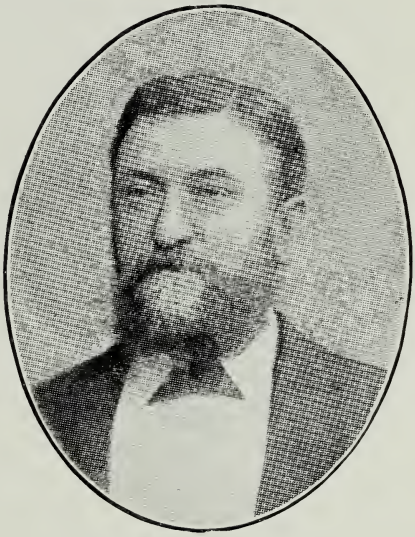
THE DEPUTY-MAYOR
(Councillor John Byford, Junr.).



CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES
AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1902-3
(COUNCILLOR J. WILLIAMS).

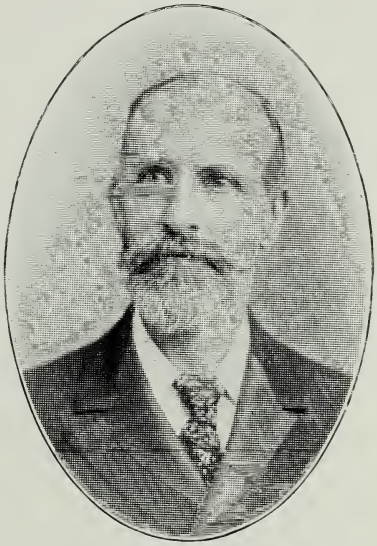
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1902-3.

ALDERMAN R. ATHEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, 1891-2).



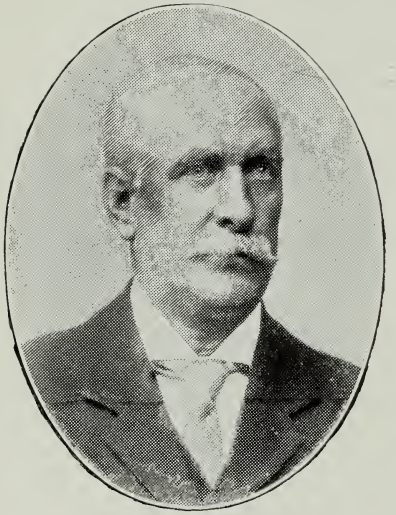
ALDERMAN C. HARBOTT, J.P.

ALDERMAN C. KELLY.

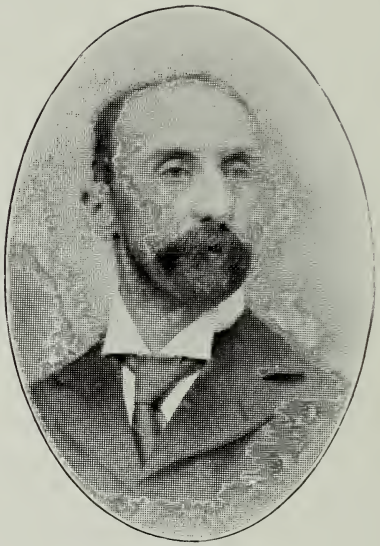


ALDERMAN L. W. SPRATT, J.P.

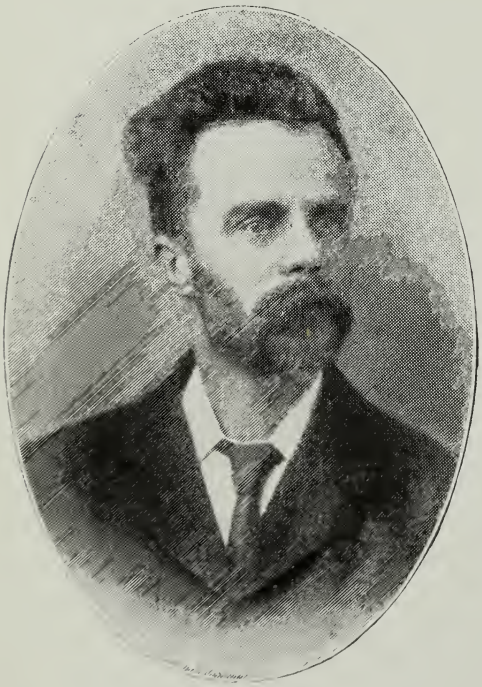
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES



Councillor W. Boulter.



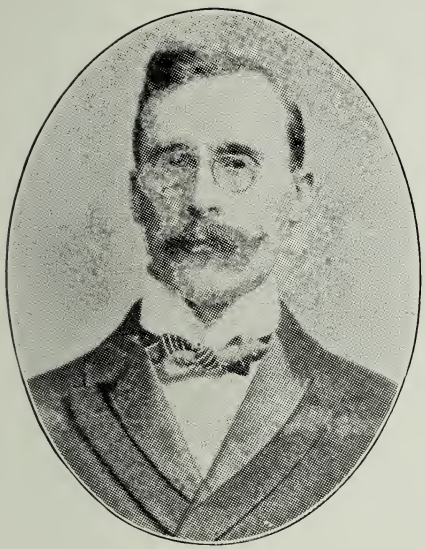
Councillor H. Davis.



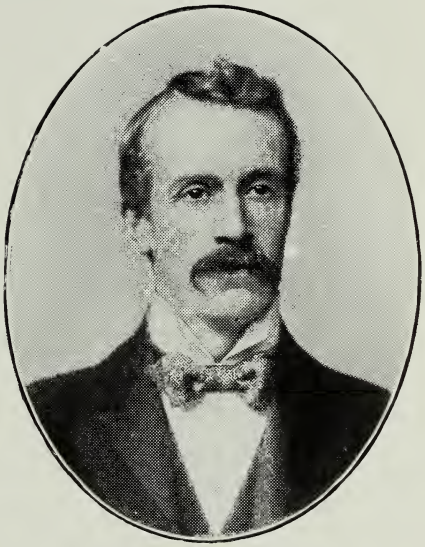
Councillor W. Godbold.

Councillor J. R. Hurry.

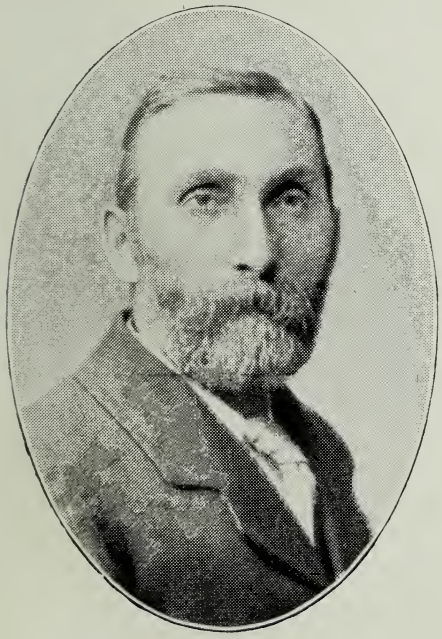
AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.



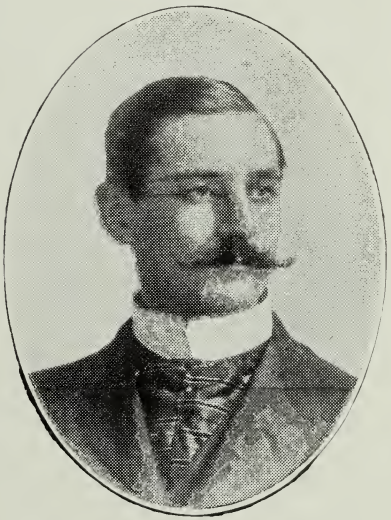
Councillor A. Evnesford Jacobs.



Councillor G. Saunders Jacobs
(Chairman of the Committee, 1898-9).



Councillor T. P. Knight.



Councillor E. McAllen.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE.

Councillor H. J. Nathan.

Councillor Enos Smith.

CHIEF OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Borough Librarian
(A. Cotgreave, F.R.Hist.S.).

Principal of the Technical Institute
(A. E. Briscoe, A.R.C.Sc., B.Sc.).

For the portrait of the Mayor (Alderman J. Kettle, J.P.), see page 10;
and for that of the Chairman, see page 12.

A RÉSUMÉ OF THE HISTORY

TOGETHER WITH

A DESCRIPTION

OF THE

WEST HAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES.*

ON the *British Traveller* for 1771, there is a statement to the effect "that the Hamlet of Stratford, which was formerly a small village," had at that time been very largely increased by the addition of a vast number of houses. The idea of vastness in this connection must have had exaggerated proportions, and could not have had much foundation in fact, since in 1800 the whole parish, containing some thousands of acres, could only muster about 700 houses, with a total population of 3,500 inhabitants, while in the whole County of Essex there were not more than 14,500 people.

In 1837, however, the population had increased itself fourfold, and the rateable value of the property within its boundaries had risen to no less than £40,000. During the last forty years gigantic

* It is to some extent a Reprint of the Souvenir published in connection with the opening of the Central Library and Institute, brought up to date where necessary, and forms a part of the Annual Report for 1902-3.

strides have been made, as may be gauged from the following statistics taken from the official records in the archives of the Borough :—

	Population.	Rateable Value.
1861	37,622 ...	£119,059
1871	62,969 ...	210,726
1881	128,935 ...	453,051
1891	204,902 ...	760,588
1901	267,308 ...	1,126,754
1903 (computed) ...	283.508 ...	1,205,477

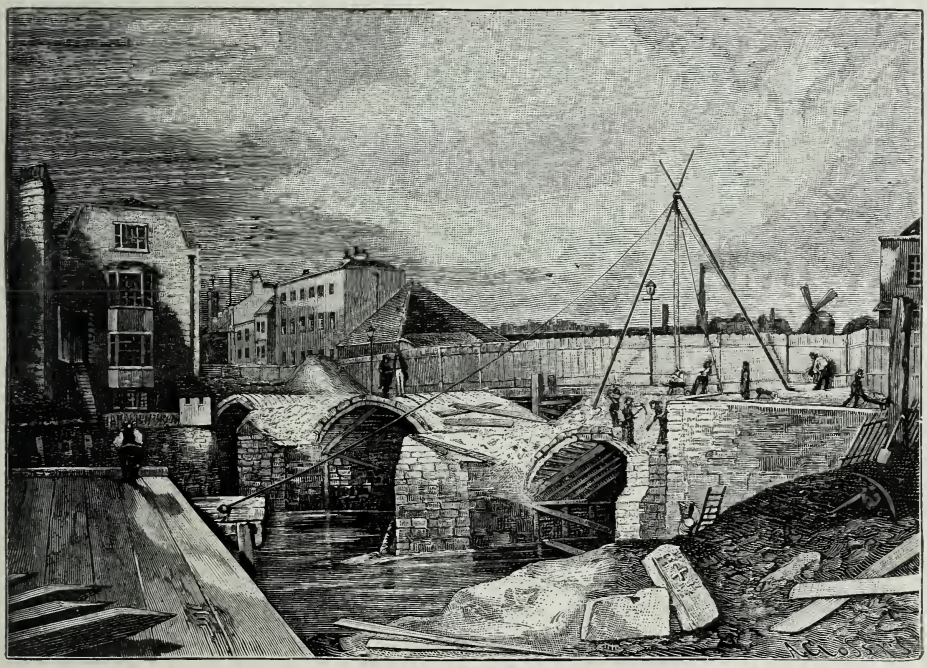
As West Ham is a maritime borough, the above figures are probably below the actual population, especially during the later periods referred to.

OLD GATEWAY AT LANGTHORNE ABBEY.

There is still sufficient acreage of building space to accommodate another 200,000.

It will thus be seen that the population of West Ham has increased in number from 37,622 in 1861 to 283,508 in 1903.

The issue of this has been that, within twenty years of the opening of the first Board School within the boundaries of the Parish, the inspiration caused by its inauguration as a centre of light and leading, coupled with the noble endeavours of several of West Ham's leading citizens, produced the feeling that a rapidly-increasing industrial population, such as was domiciling itself within the Borough, needed some higher educational stimulus,



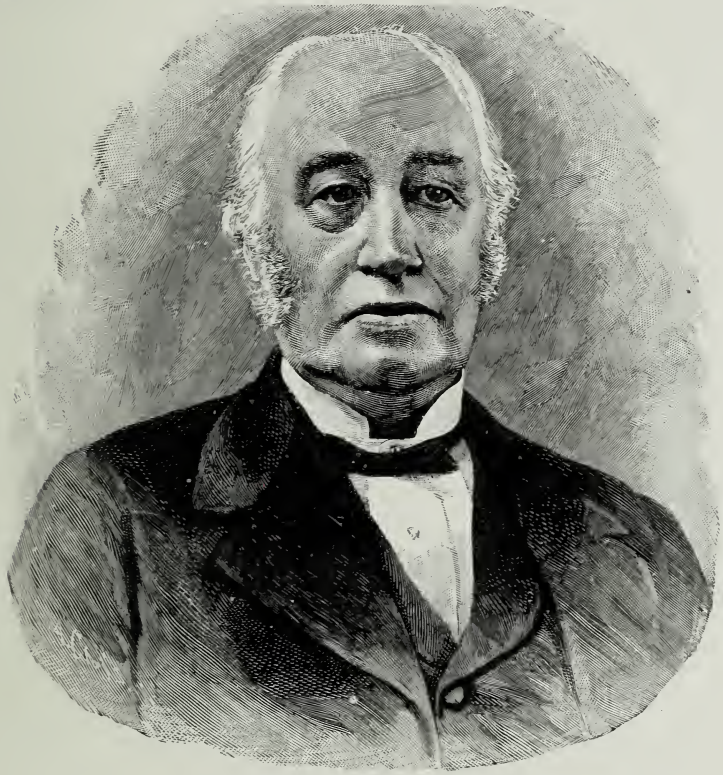
OLD BOW BRIDGE.

whereby it might be enabled to gain the knowledge necessary to hold its own in the battle of commercial rivalry. This brought into being a movement in favour of the adoption of the "Public Libraries Acts" and "Technical Education Acts," and in 1887 an effort was made to procure the accomplishment of that desirable end, but, owing to a very strong opposition, caused mainly through

WEST HAM CHURCH IN 1832.

OLD BROADWAY.

a want of information upon the subject, it was defeated, and it was not until the year 1890 that the matter was conclusively settled, and the issue secured, by a favourable majority of 6,418 votes.

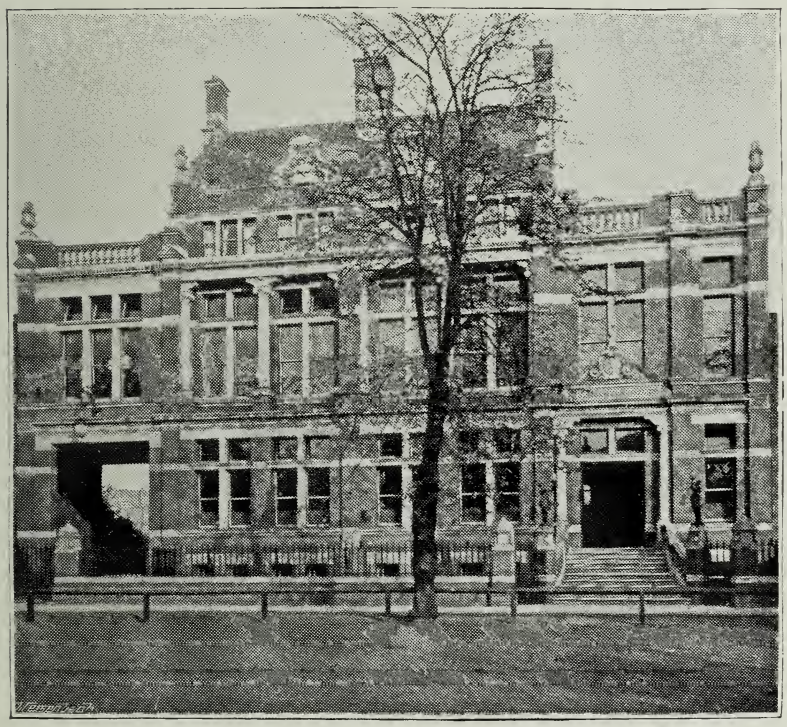


THE LATE ALDERMAN J. MEESON, J.P., FIRST MAYOR OF WEST HAM.

This happy result may be credited to the individual and disinterested efforts of many of the representative members of the Town Council and other gentlemen. Prominently mentioned among the leaders of the movement, appear the names of Mr. W. Crow, J.P., Mr. F. Smith, J.P., Mr. George Hay, J.P., Major Banes, M.P., Rev. Canon Scott, M.A., Rev. C. Baumgarten,

ELIZABETH FRY AT NEWGATE. (A NOTED WEST HAM PHILANTHROPIST, DIED 1845.)

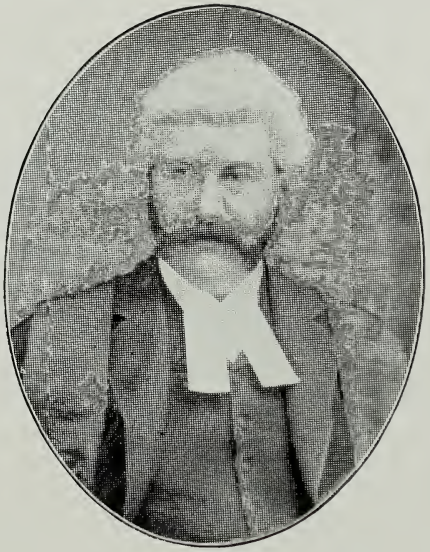
Mr. R. C. Robinson, Dr. Percy Rose, Mr. W. G. Horncastle, Mr. C. C. Hutchinson, J.P., Mr. Johnston, Mr. Councillor Alden, M.A., Mr. Alderman White, Mr. Spencer Curwen, Mr. W. Tanner, Mr. W. H. Smith, Mr. J. Walsh, Mr. J. Bush, Mr. F. C. Blackburn, and the School Teachers as a body; and there were many other



SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES.

earnest workers and supporters, of whose sterling endeavours in the good cause no record has been found, together with the local journals, without whose influential aid the movement would probably have failed.

THE LATE ALDERMAN WORLAND
(FIRST CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC LIBRARIES).



MR. F. E. HILLEARY, LL.D.
(THE TOWN CLERK).

On the 13th January, 1891, the first Committee was elected, under the Chairmanship of the late Mr. Alderman Worland, J.P., and on the 9th June, 1891, was appointed the first Chief Librarian of the Borough (Mr. A. Cotgreave), who commenced his preliminary duties on the 1st July following, at the Town Hall. In October,

THE TOWN HALL.

1891, owing to the inadequacy of the room available at the Town Hall, a portion of Rokeby House, an ancient residential mansion then in the possession of Alderman Moore Smith, J.P., was engaged and fitted up for the reception and classification of books

OLD ROKEBY HOUSE, TEMPORARY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1891-1898.

and other work necessary to the organization of the Libraries, and on the 30th July, 1892, a Public Newsroom was opened there, to be followed on the 12th December, by a Reference Library, containing a valuable collection of Scientific, Historical, and Topographical works, particularly such as related to Essex and London History and Antiquities. These rooms, though small and inconvenient, were, however, largely used, the average daily attendance in 1895 being as much as 1,025.

Owing to the difficulties and delay experienced in connection with the Central Library and Technical Institute, the Council decided to open a Temporary Lending Library in addition to the other departments, and this was opened early in 1896, with a stock of about 12,000 books, while the Central Reference Library contained at that time 6,000.

Rokeby House, the first home of the West Ham Public Libraries, and from which both the large "Branch" at Canning Town and the Central Library were planned and evolved, was an old-world memory, which stood fronting the main thoroughfare—the old Roman military road to the Camp at Camulodunum, or the modern Colchester. It was built sometime in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, or early in the reign of James I, and contained some very valuable old oak panelling and armorial devices, which were purchased from their owner by the Authorities of South Kensington Museum, previous to the demolition of the whole structure. This old mansion, so suggestive of many memories, was built by a scion of the ancient house of the De Rokebys, the principal branch of which is now represented by the Rokebys of Northamptonshire.

The Library at Canning Town, though but a Branch of the West Ham Public Libraries, is superior in size and stock of books to many of the central public libraries elsewhere. The principal reason in deciding to have a large building for a Branch here, was that, owing to the extensive area of the Borough, Canning Town residents could not conveniently make regular use of the Stratford

ALDERMAN GEO. HAY, J.P.

(MAYOR OF WEST HAM, 1887-8; 1891-2; COMPLETION OF YEAR 1894-5; AND CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1894-5).

Reference Department. It is obvious, however, that the working of so large a Branch adds greatly to the expenditure as well as the responsibility and difficulties of management. The stock of books now numbers nearly 20,000.

As this Library was also opened by Mr. Edwards, the following few notes may be interesting:—

The foundation stone was laid on the 18th July, 1892, by Mr. George Hay, J.P. (who was then Mayor of the Borough), and bears the name of that gentleman, and also the names of Mr. F. E. Hilleary, LL.D., Town Clerk, and Mr. Lewis Angell, C.E., F.R.I.B.A. (then Borough Engineer), who was the Architect of the Building.

In the Principal Entrance is placed a marble Tablet, which bears the following inscription:—

THIS PUBLIC LIBRARY,
ERECTED BY
THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST HAM,
WAS OPENED BY
J. PASSMORE EDWARDS, ESQ.,
SEPTEMBER 28TH, 1893.

ALDERMAN G. W. KIDD, J.P., MAYOR.

Committee:

Councillor H. T. HOLLINGSWORTH, *Chairman.*

Alderman W. R. ATHEY.	Councillor W. HUGHES.
,, R. FIELDER.	,, W. G. HORNCASTLE.
,, G. HAY, J.P.	,, W. IVEY.
,, F. SMITH, J.P.	,, G. LAMBERT.
,, H. WORLAND, J.P.	,, W. THORNE.
Councillor P. ALDEN, M.A.	,, W. WARD.
,, W. CROW.	,, T. P. WHITTY.

Councillor G. ENSER.

FRED. E. HILLEARY, LL.D., *Town Clerk.*
LEWIS ANGELL, F.R.I.B.A., *Borough Architect and Engineer.*
ALFRED COTGREAVE, F.R.HIST.S., *Chief Librarian.*
W. GREGAR & SONS, *Builders.*

ALDERMAN GEORGE KIDD, J.P.
(MAYOR OF WEST HAM, 1892-3).

THE LATE COUNCILLOR HOLLINGSWORTH
(CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1892-3).

The sizes of the principal rooms are: Newsroom, 64 feet 6 inches by 30 feet; Lending Library, 54 feet 3 inches by 30 feet: Reference Library, 54 feet 3 inches by 30 feet.

The cost of the building was £8,490 9s. 0d., and furniture and fittings £1,186 14s. 9d. The site was presented by the Corporation.

The most recent designs for heat and ventilation, light (both electric and gas), work of the Library, &c., have been provided.

The following is a brief account of the opening ceremony:—

Mr. Passmore Edwards was received at the Entrance of the Public Library by the Mayor and Libraries Committee, and was presented with a Silver Key, the shaft of which was adorned with gilt mountings, surmounted by the Corporation Arms, and bearing the following Inscription:—

"Presented by the Corporation of West Ham to J. Passmore Edwards, Esquire, on the occasion of Opening the Canning Town Library, September 28th, 1893."

The party, after inspecting the Library, adjourned to the Reading Room, where the proceedings were opened by the Vicar the Rev. A. R. Pelly, M.A., with prayer.

The Town Clerk then read the following address, which was presented to Mr. Edwards:—

"To John Passmore Edwards, Esquire. We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of West Ham, desire, in welcoming you to the Borough for the purpose of opening the new Public Library at Canning Town, to express the great satisfaction we feel in having been so fortunate as to procure the attendance of a gentleman who has done so much in various parts of the country to extend the advantages which public libraries, and other similar educational institutions, undoubtedly confer upon large numbers of persons, who have by this means been able to obtain intellectual culture and enjoyment, which otherwise would not have been within their reach. We thank you very heartily for

your presence here to-day, and trust you may long live to lend your assistance to the good work you have undertaken with such gratifying results."

The address was signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

CANNING TOWN LIBRARY AND PUBLIC HALL.

After Mr. Councillor Hollingsworth, who, as Chairman of the Libraries Committee, had given a clear and exhaustive statement as to the origin, growth, and development of the Library movement

SOME INTERIORS OF CANNING TOWN LIBRARY.

in the Borough, Mr. Passmore Edwards gave his Opening Address, of which the following is an extract:—

"He was pleased to know that in connection with the Library in the Northern part of the Borough they were to have a Technical Institute. Above all things in this world that was what was wanted. We were just on the verge of a great Technical Instruction wave, which must extend for the sake of the Artizan, the Community, the Industrial Development, and the Empire at large. (Applause.) The British Empire was the greatest secular fact in human history, and they should do all in their power to maintain it. He was pleased to be present, because those in the West End had so many of the good things of this world, and this life, and he would like to see a little more equality. (Applause.) He would wish that more of the wealth, the energy, and the sympathy of Western London would sweep down upon West Ham, which had claims upon the great City. Libraries were becoming a necessity of our social life, and he congratulated the inhabitants on the one they had built, and the one they were going to build. He hoped this would not be the last time they would meet. (Cheers.)

The Mayor (Alderman Kidd, J.P.) proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Edwards, which was seconded by Alderman Hay.

The general attendance at this Library is over 2,000 per day.

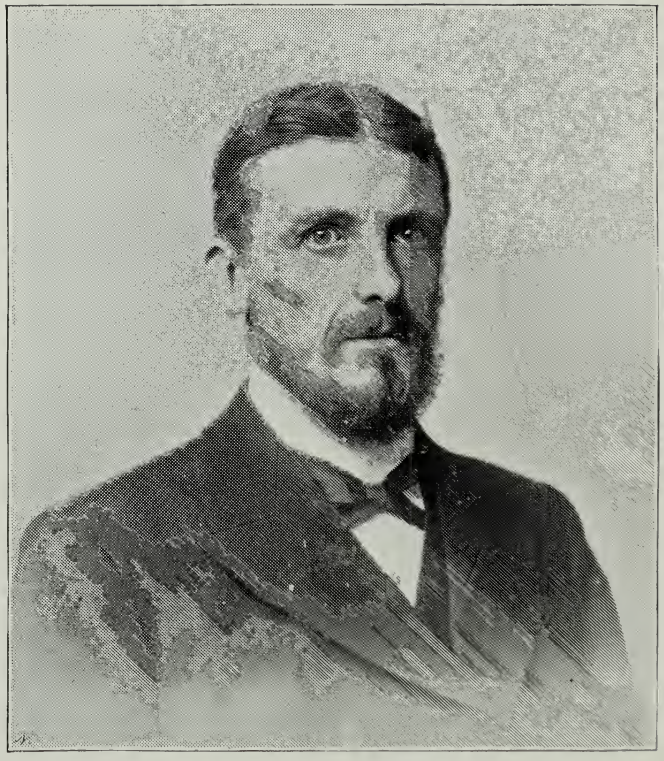
With regard to the Central Library and Technical Institute buildings, some considerable delay took place in commencing the building operations, owing to the difficulty that was experienced in deciding upon a suitable site, as well as in other details connected with it. These difficulties were, however, overcome by the persistence of the Council, in conjunction with the efforts of the Town Clerk, in securing the prominent position which, on the suggestion of Alderman Hay, was ultimately obtained.

This site is situated on the Green, Romford Road. It was upon this spot that Richard de Montfichet, the feudal Lord of the Manor of West Ham, was permitted by the King to erect a gallows for the purpose of wreaking vengeance on those who should be so unwise as to run counter to his lordly will. This fact may of itself suggest many reflections in which, notwithstanding the general opinion about the good old times, it might occur that we, of this generation, can give many points in betterment to the old feudal despot referred to, and his brother barons.

On the 29th October, 1896, the Foundation Stone of the New Institute was laid by Mr. W. Crow, J.P., then Mayor of West

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, 29TH OCTOBER, 1896, BY MR. ALDERMAN CROW, J.P., MAYOR OF WEST HAM, SUPPORTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL, BOROUGH OFFICERS, ARCHDEACON STEVENS, CANON PELLY, MR. E. GRAY, M.P., AND OTHER REPRESENTATIVE GENTLEMEN.

ALDERMAN IVEY, J.P.
(MAYOR OF WEST HAM, 1897-8).



ALDERMAN W. CROW, J.P.
(CHAIRMAN OF THE INSTITUTE AND LIBRARIES, 1897-8).

Ham; and as such an auspicious event in the annals of the Borough is of the greatest importance, the following extract from the local press may be interesting:—

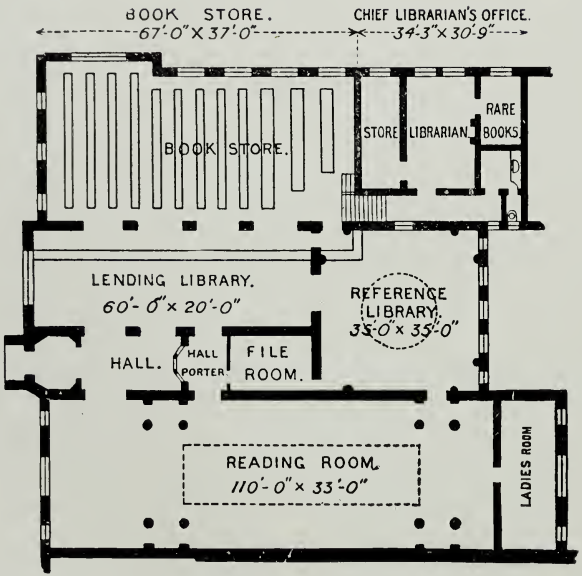
The Foundation Stone of the Technical Institute and Public Library was laid, on Thursday afternoon, by the Mayor of West Ham (Alderman W. Crow, J.P.), in the presence of a very large company. The chair was taken by Councillor W. East, Chairman of the Public Libraries and Technical Instruction Committee, and he was supported by the Mayor and Mayoress (Mrs. Crow), the Deputy Mayor (Alderman Hughes), the Town Clerk (Mr. F. E. Hilleary, LL.D.), Archdeacon Stevens, the Rev. R. Arnold Pelly (Vicar of West Ham), Mr. Ernest Gray, M.P., the Borough Engineer (Mr. Lewis Angell), the Borough Treasurer (Mr. F. E. Harris), the Borough Librarian (Mr. A. Cotgreave), Mr. C. Boardman, J.P., and others. Among those present on the staging were, Mr. Alderman Ivey, J.P. (Mayor 1897-8), Messrs. Aldermen Bethell, Adamson, Fielder, Fulcher, Govier, J.P., and White. Councillors Alden, Athey, Barber, Bishop, Boardman, Enser, Kettle, Lambert, Loury, Mansfield, Nares, Noakes, Page, Relf, Rippin, Roberts, Moore-Smith, J.P., etc. The roadway was spanned with flags, and the Band of the 4th Essex Volunteers played selections of music before and after the ceremony.

COUNCILLOR W. EAST

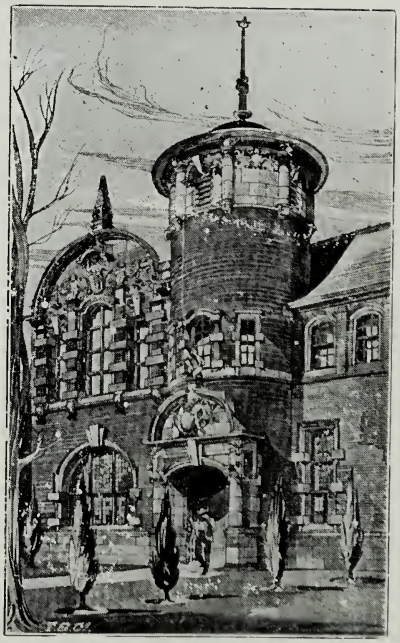
(CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1895-6).

Prayers having been offered by the Rev. R. Pelly, the Chairman called upon the Mayor to lay the stone. The architects, Messrs. Gibson & Russell, and the builders, Messrs. Shillitoe, presented the Mayor with a silver trowel, a "mallet," and a "level" respectively, and his Worship, amid loud cheers, declared

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.



PLAN OF THE PRINCIPAL ROOMS.



VIEW OF ENTRANCE.

that the stone was "well and truly laid." Copies of the *Times*, *Stratford Express*, *West Ham Guardian*, *West Ham Herald*, and other papers, were placed under the stone.

The Mayor gave an interesting address, which will be found in the "Souvenir of the Opening of the Technical Institute and Public Libraries," 1898, and in the local press.

Archdeacon Stevens, M.A., proposed, and Mr. Ernest Gray, M.P., seconded, a vote of thanks to the Mayor.

Mr. Boardman moved, and the Deputy-Mayor (Mr. Alderman Hughes) seconded, a vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, remarking upon the excellent work Councillor East had done as Chairman of the Committee. This proposition was also carried, and a neat little speech from Councillor East in response closed the proceedings.

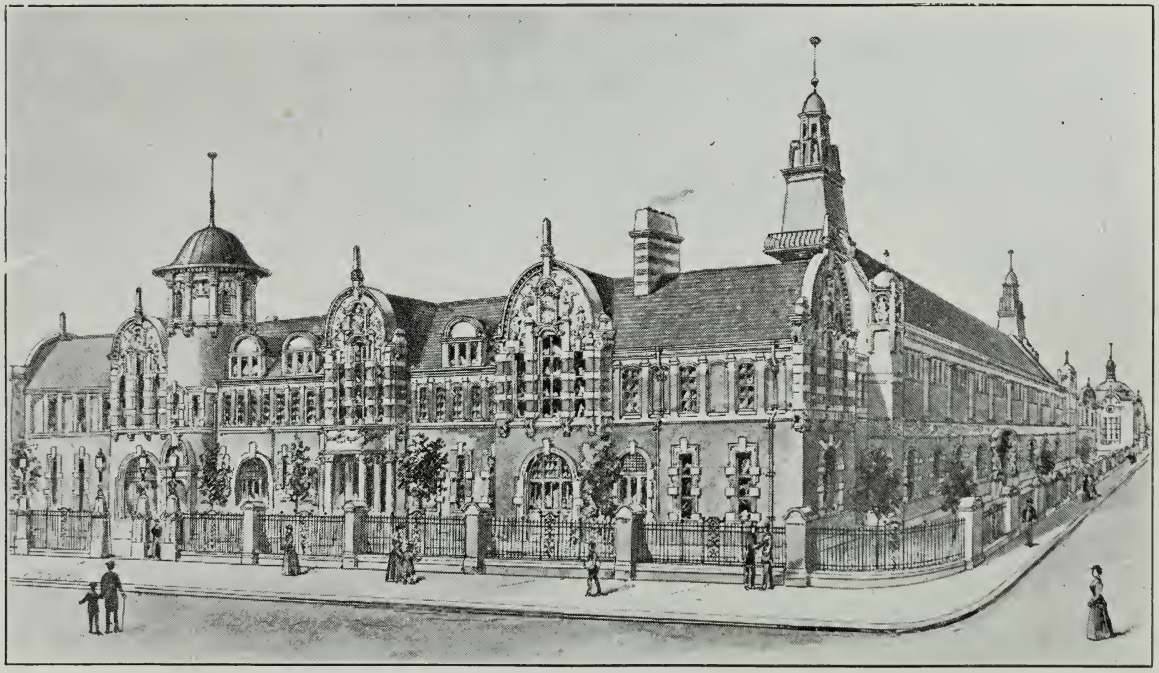
The Central Library and Technical Institute was opened by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, on October 6th, 1898. A full record of the various speeches, reports, and transactions will be found in the "Souvenir of the Technical Institute and Public Libraries," 1898, and in the local press.

Every effort has been made in this Library for the convenience of its working arrangements, light and heat, and for the general comfort of those who may use it; while the artistic beauty of the decorations and the elegance of the furniture are a just and fitting tribute to the noble thought and universal knowledge which are contained in the many thousands of books upon the library shelves.

In the Newsroom (110 feet long by 33 feet wide) provision has been made for about 250 male and 50 female readers. The Reference Library provides accommodation for 60, while in the Lending Department, and on the public side of the counter, between 70 and 80 can move about comfortably while examining the catalogues or indicators, or changing their books. Perhaps the greatest convenience of all is, that the whole of the rooms are on the ground floor.

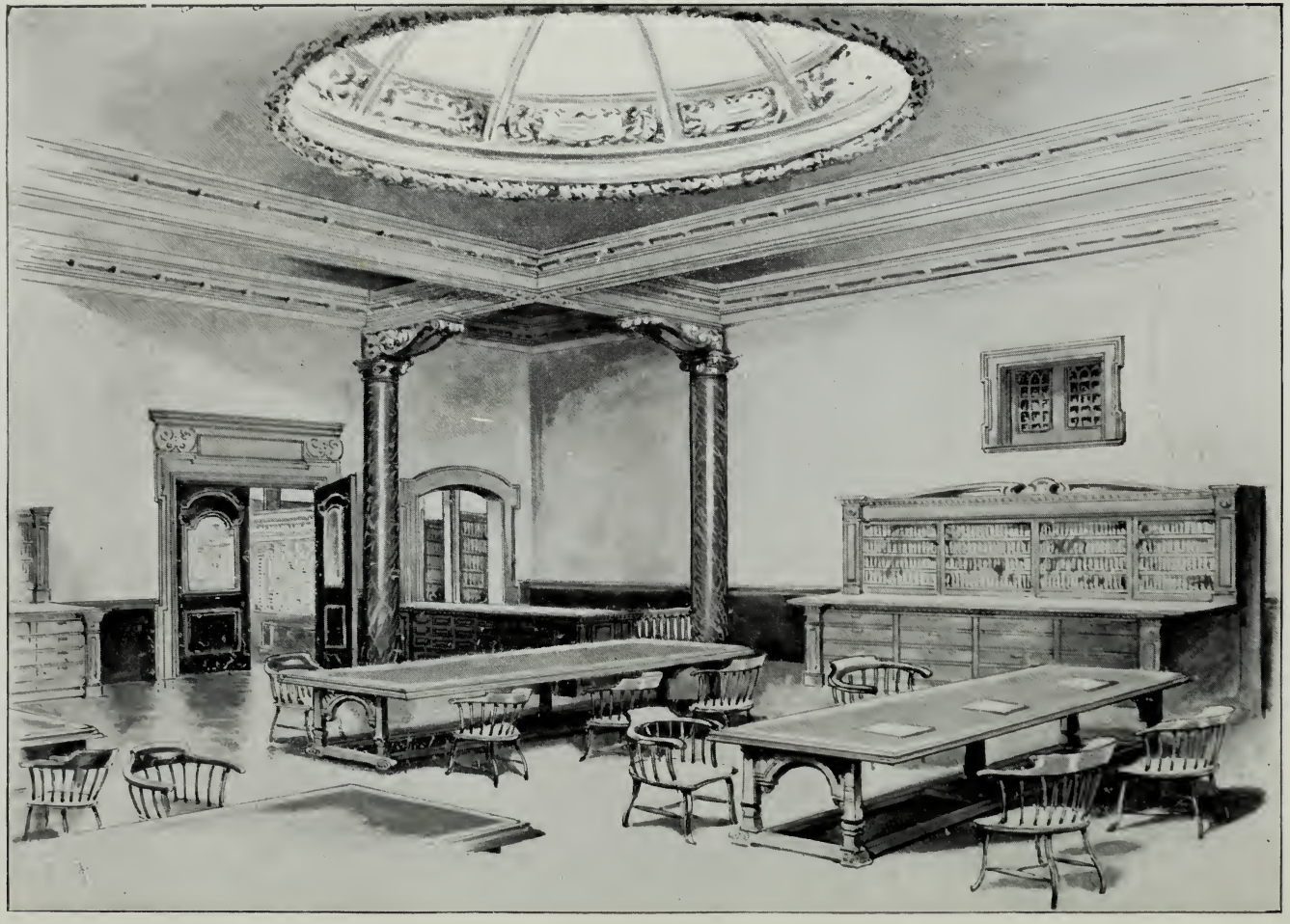
Central Public Library and Technical Institute

(Architects, Messrs. Gibson & Russell).



Opened by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, October 6th, 1898.

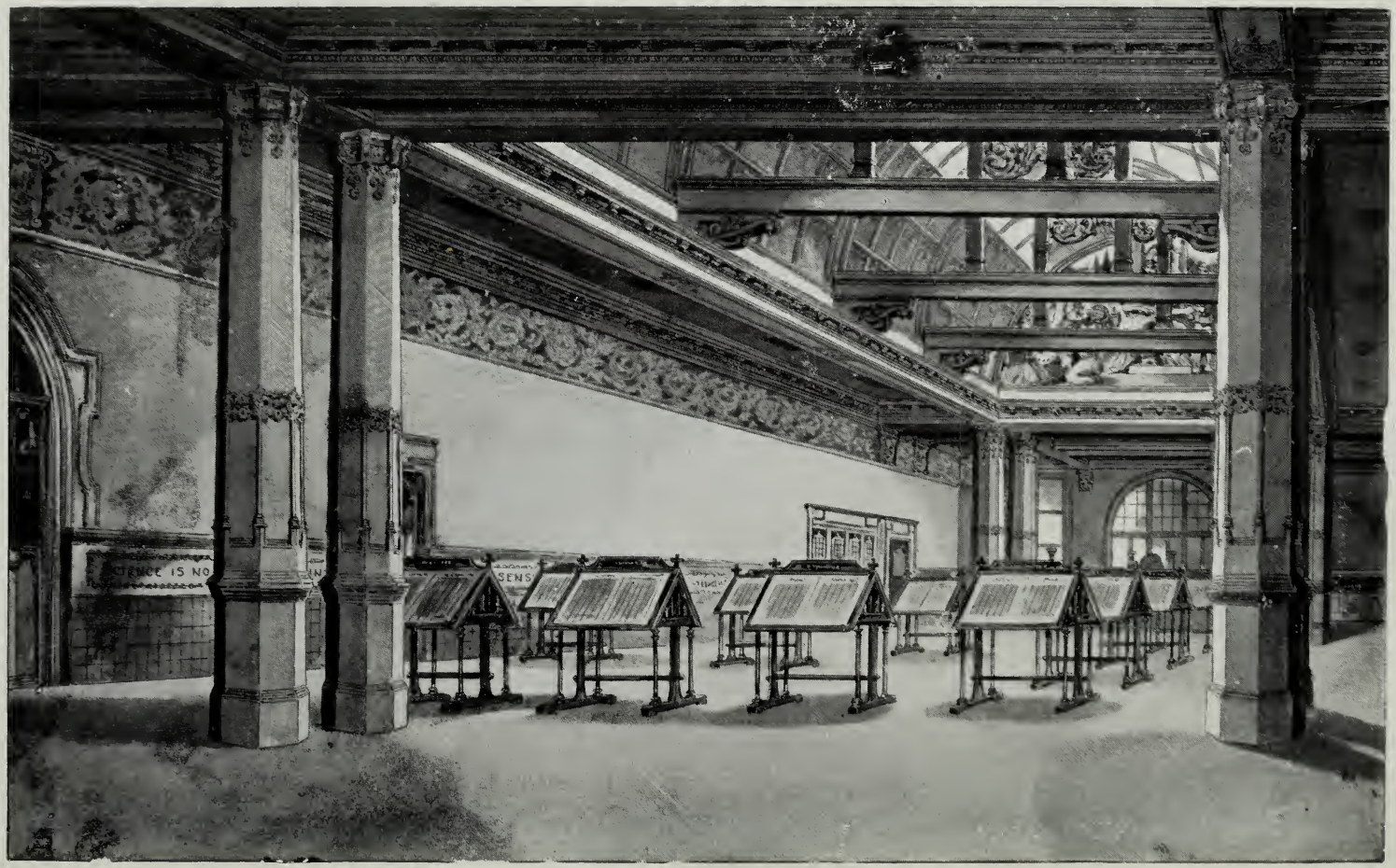
CENTRAL LIBRARY BOOK STORE.



A CORNER OF THE CENTRAL REFERENCE LIBRARY.

The Lending Library contains 18,254 books, most of which are works on Science, History, Biography, and Travel; every other class of literature, however, is fairly represented, not forgetting Fiction, which, for the relief of many of our readers, I may say, is represented on the shelves by 5,617 volumes. There is also a good Juvenile Library of 2,316 volumes, every one of which, it can be safely said, will not only amuse, but instruct, those who read them. Although the age of eleven is given in the Rules as the limit, the Chief Librarian is allowed a discretionary power, and boys or girls of a younger age, if advanced enough in their reading, are permitted to borrow books. Great care must be taken of the books, as inattention in this respect will result in fines or the stoppage of tickets. The Lending Library is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., except on Wednesdays.

The Reference Library, although already possessing 18,554 volumes, will require many more before it can be said to approach completion, but the great cost of most works of reference makes it compulsory on municipal library authorities to move slowly and cautiously, and to acquire these literary treasures from time to time as opportunity and means allow. Some fortunate libraries are situated in literary centres, where many wealthy men possessed of splendid libraries reside, and who frequently give valuable books, and occasionally even bequeath a large and costly collection, to the public library. All our rare books, with a few notable exceptions, have been bought. The gift we value most is a copy of Morant's "History of Essex," presented by Mr. Alderman Smith, J.P. Literary experts and writers have a great veneration for this copy and are continually using it. Another very interesting collection is the Highland Clans and Biography, presented by Mr. Alderman Hay, J.P.; while outside the Borough we have had some gifts of value from Mr. Passmore Edwards (2,000 volumes), the British Museum, Her Majesty's Record Office, Her Majesty's Patent Office, Mr. J. F. Furnival, M.A., Sir Spencer Walpole, Mr. C. Welch (Guildhall), Dr. Macaulay, Miss Braddon, Charles



THE LARGE CENTRAL READING OR NEWSROOM.

Booth, and others. We have been more fortunate in respect to useful books which were less costly, and have received numerous gifts from friends both inside and outside of the Borough, including gifts from Dr. Pagenstecher, C. Hughes, P. and H. Clarke, &c.

Of the books bought, our principal gems are Sowerby's "Botany and Mineralogy"; fine copies of Hogarth; Gillray; Morris's "British Birds, Moths, Butterflies, and Nests and Eggs"; Yarrell's Works; Works of Lady Jackson, Hammerton, Lacroix, Owen Jones, Racinet, Bewick, Pugin, and Ruskin; Murray's Dictionary; Dictionary of National Biography; and other up-to-date Encyclopædias and Dictionaries; complete sets of Art Journal, Magazine of Art, Quarterly, Edinburgh, Notes and Queries, with Indexes; Archæological Journal, Antiquary, Journal of Geographical Society; Reports of British Association; Encyclopædia Britannica; Encyclopædia Biblica; Hasting's "Dictionary of the Bible"; Traill's "Social England"; Publications of The Early English Text Society, The Shakespeare Society, Ballad Society, Royal Statistical Society, H.M. Record Office; George Edwards' "Natural History of Uncommon Birds"; Cambridge Natural History; Helmont's "The World's History"; King's "Study Book of Mediæval Architecture and Art"; Booth's "Life and Labour of the People in London" (16 volumes), comprising: Poverty (4 volumes), Industry (5 volumes), Religious Influences (7 volumes); Lydekker's "Natural History," Kerner and Oliver's "Natural History of Plants," Wright's "English Dialect Dictionary," "International Library of Famous Literature," the Victoria History of the Counties of England, Waring's "Masterpieces of Art and Sculpture," Funk and Wagnall's Dictionary, special editions of the complete works of Lover, Stevenson, Scott, Dickens, Eliot, Brontë, Peacock, and others.

There are many other valuable works, but we have not space here to name them, further than to say there are fine collections of many hundreds of works relating to London and Essex History and Topography, while the remaining thousands of volumes represent every branch of literature.

BAS-RELIEF, BY H. C. FEHR, IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Reproduced from *The Studio*, by permission of the Artist and Publishers.

LITERATURE.

BAS-RELIEF, BY H. C. FEHR, IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.

Reproduced from *The Studio*, by permission of the Artist and Publishers.

ROMANCE OF CHIVALRY.

A Card Catalogue is kept in the Reference Library, which gives the authors, titles, &c., of all the books on the shelves, while, in addition, a Contents-Subject Index which guides the reader to useful information on many subjects contained in books, but not mentioned on their title pages, is provided.

The Newsroom contains 47 copies of daily and 214 copies of weekly newspapers and periodicals, 133 monthly magazines, 24 quarterlies, and 24 annuals; also most of the leading Directories, and many Railway Guides.

A portion of this room is partitioned off for ladies.

In connection with the main libraries, small branches are worked by the Matron (Miss Drakard) at the Plaistow and Dagenham Hospitals, for the use of the patients, and spare papers and periodicals are supplied to the workhouse. A scheme to work small libraries in connection with the Board Schools was seriously considered, but had to be deferred owing to lack of funds.

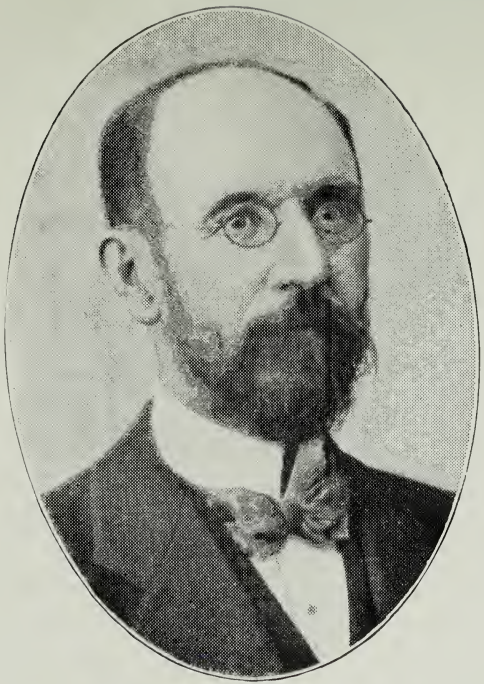
The total attendance at all the libraries last year was 1,266,898.

On the whole, we think most of our readers will admit that a good start has been made, and that we may feel sanguine as to the future popularity and success of the West Ham Public Libraries.

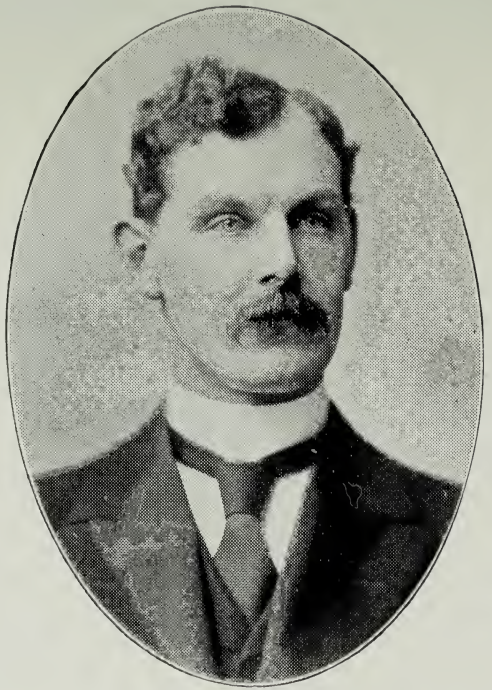
N.B.—Full particulars of the work of the last municipal year, 1902-3, will be found at pages 65–100.

THE FIRE OF 1899.

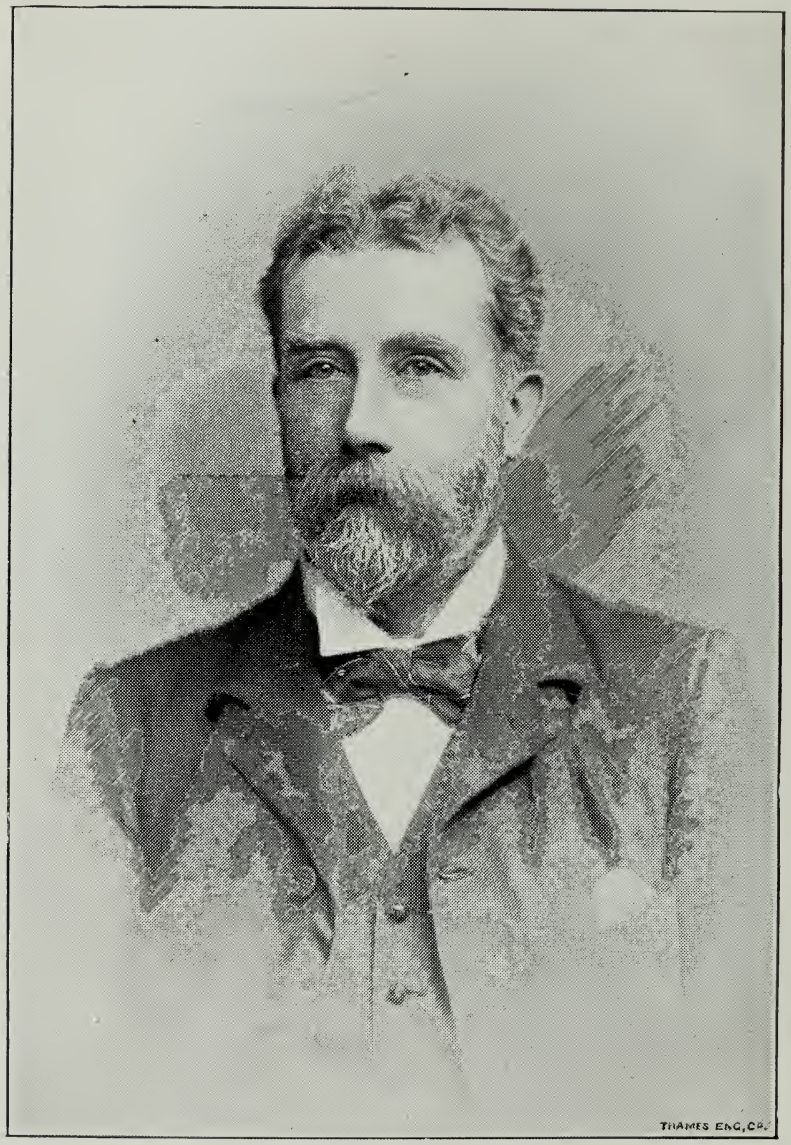
In the early morning of the 23rd October, 1899, a disastrous fire broke out in the Technical Institute. The ground floor, which contains the Central Public Library, was greatly damaged by the fire and water, and the work of the Library and Institute was entirely disorganized. The building was re-opened by Mr. Passmore Edwards on 18th October, 1900, and it is pleasing to state that both these institutions have now quite recovered from the effects of this catastrophe, and in some departments the work has much improved.



ALDERMAN F. H BILLOWS, J P.
(CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1899 1900)

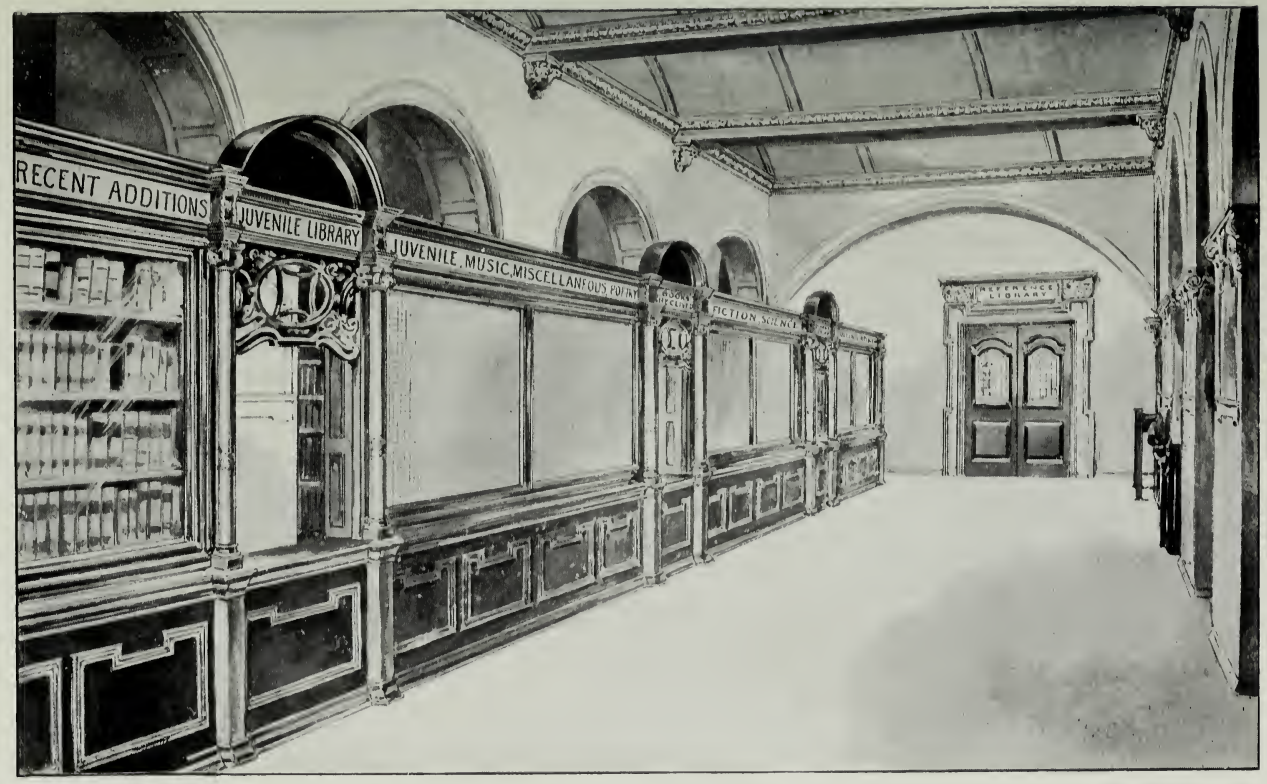


ALDERMAN J. H. BETHELL, J.P.
(MAYOR OF WEST HAM, 1899-1900).



COUNCILLOR J. WEAVER SMITH

(CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1900-1).



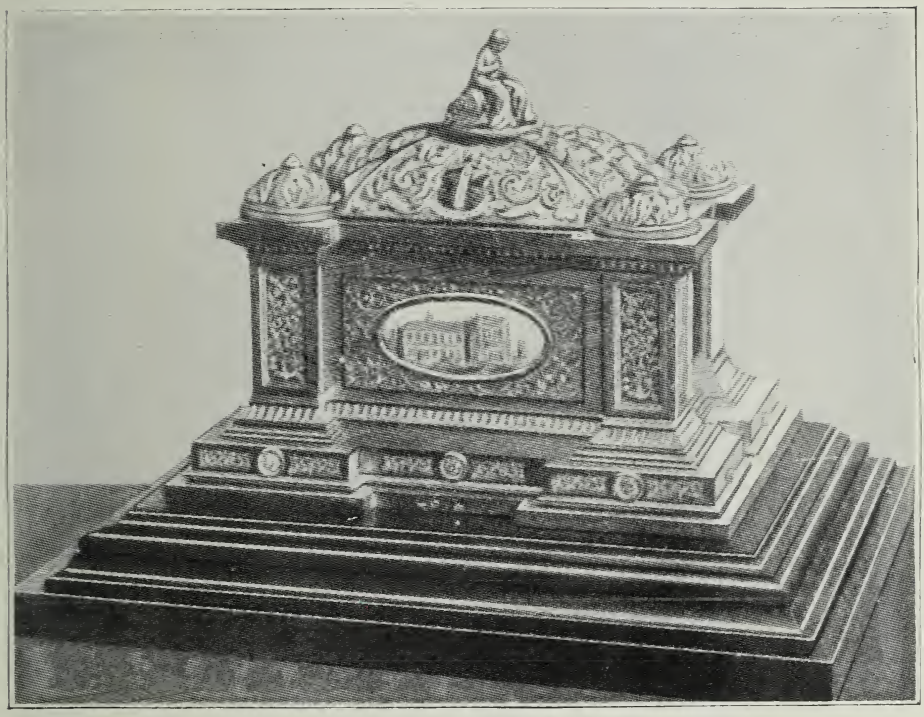
CENTRAL LENDING LIBRARY, COUNTER AND INDICATOR.

(Tables and Stands for the display of Catalogues, &c., are now placed in the public space.)

A PORTRAIT GROUP SHOWING MR. J. PASSMORE EDWARDS, MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND CHIEF OFFICERS, AT THE OPENING OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, 6TH OCTOBER, 1898.

CASKET CONTAINING THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST HAM.

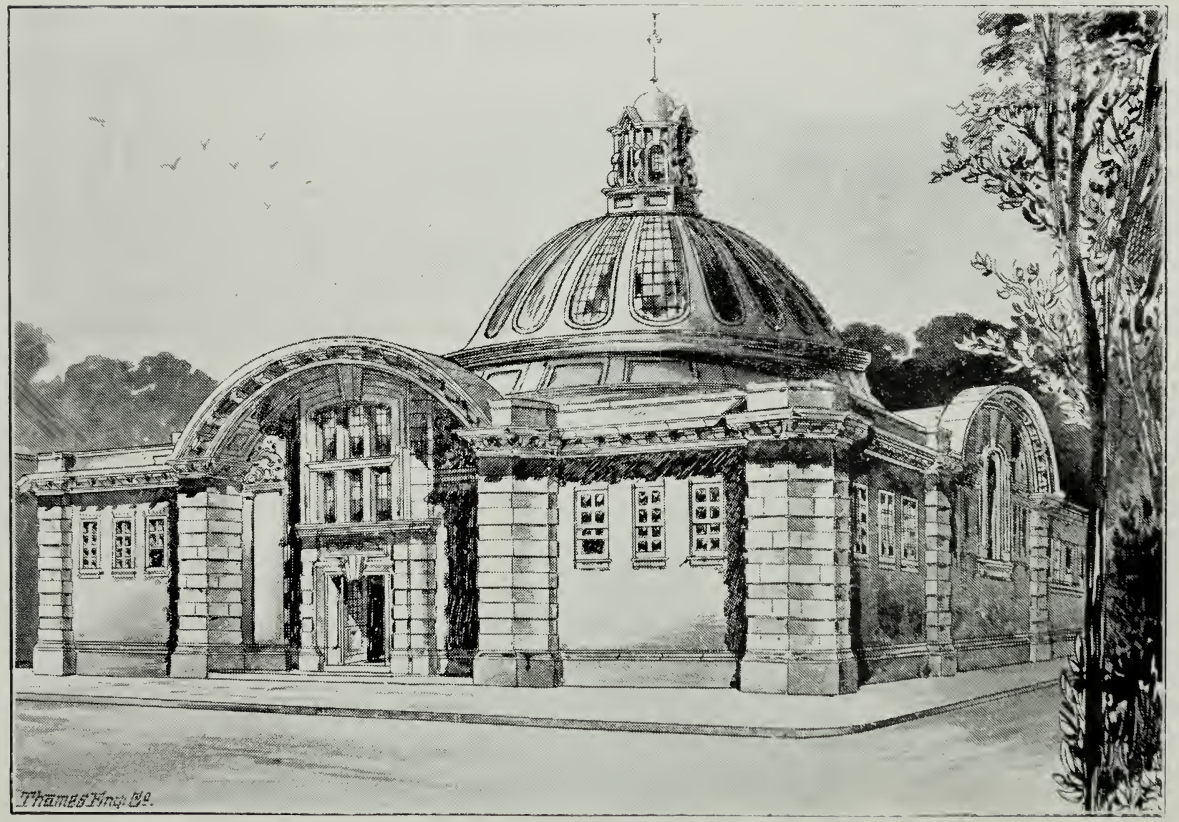
PRESENTED TO MR. PASSMORE EDWARDS, OCTOBER 16TH, 1895.



THE SCROLL READS AS FOLLOWS:—

"We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the County Borough of West Ham, in cordially welcoming you in our midst, are desirous of conveying to you our strong appreciation of your chivalrous philanthropy, which has taken such diverse and princely proportions throughout, we might almost say, the entire country. You, sir, have built, and helped to build, many Public Libraries to the entertainment, and moral and intellectual culture of the masses of the people, and you have built Hospitals and Convalescent Homes, through the adminstration in which the sick and wounded are scientifically and thoroughly treated and nursed in their distress. And in this connection, we ourselves have received at your hands, not only considerable assistance in our own Public Library, but the magnificent gift of a wing—the 'Passmore Edwards Wing'- of the West Ham Hospital. Your generous offer came at a most opportune time; the Hospital was in great need of enlargement, to cope with the claims made upon it in this vast district; and we desire to tender you our warmest thanks for the great interest you have been good enough to take in our Borough. Perhaps we may also be permitted to express our admiration for the proud position you hold in the literary world, your efforts in which redound to the credit of journalism. And now, sir, it only remains to us to offer you, as a mark of our respectful esteem, and to emphasise our good wishes for the welfare of yourself, Mrs. Passmore Edwards, and your family, the greatest honour it is in our power to bestow—the Freedom of the County Borough for the first time given—contained in a Casket, which his Worship the Mayor (Alderman George Hay, J.P.) will have the honour of presenting to you on our behalf."

PASSMORE EDWARDS PUBLIC LIBRARY, PLAISTOW—(ORIGINAL DESIGN).
(The size of the dome has since been reduced.)



Presented to the Corporation of West Ham by Mr. J. PASSMORE EDWARDS.

THE PASSMORE EDWARDS LIBRARY, PLAISTOW.

The above Library, of which an interior view is given at page 7, and an exterior at page 54, is the outcome in the first instance of an appeal made to the Council by the Plaistow Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and other societies to provide a branch library for Plaistow, and in consequence of which the Borough Librarian (Mr. A. Cotgreave), was instructed to inspect certain old houses, Corporation property, in the neighbourhood, with a view to making such alterations as would adapt them for the purpose under consideration. The Librarian carefully examined these buildings, and reported that no satisfactory result could be obtained without pulling them down altogether, and erecting on their site a properly-designed library building. As the cost of such an undertaking was more than the library rate would bear, the matter was deferred. In the meantime, the Librarian, being aware of the great support, financial and otherwise, which Mr. Passmore Edwards had given to public libraries, decided to submit the circumstances of the case to him and learn if he would be inclined to assist in the provision of this library. After discussing the matter with the then Mayor. Alderman Bethell, Mr. Edwards agreed to build a library for Plaistow, suitable for the needs of that district.

The Library is so constructed that a perfect supervision is obtained, from one central point, over all departments. The storage room for books is sufficient for 15,000 volumes, the reading room space for 140 readers, and the light and ventilation are excellent. As there is a large resident population in Plaistow, mostly consisting of the working classes, there is every prospect that good use will be made of the library, and that the above

advantages will be fully appreciated. (See also Annual Report further on, page 68.)

The memorial stone was laid on the 29th October, 1902, by the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P. The Mayor (Alderman L. W. Spratt, J.P.), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, presided, and those present included Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, the Deputy-Mayor (Councillor J. Williams), the Chairman of the Libraries Committee (Alderman J. Kettle), Canon Pelly, and other members of the Council and representative men of the Borough.

After prayer had been offered by Canon Pelly, the Mayor introduced Mr. Asquith in a short well-chosen speech, and Alderman Kettle gave some interesting statistics of the growth of the library movement in West Ham.

Mr. Asquith formally laid the stone, and in a subsequent speech, spoke in eulogistic terms of the value of public libraries, and of Mr. Passmore Edwards' generosity in founding these institutions, the Plaistow Library being the seventy-third given by this gentleman. The Mayor then handed specially-bound copies of the Catalogue of the Library and the Program of the Technical Institute to Mr. Asquith.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Passmore Edwards and seconded by Councillor Williams, was heartily accorded to Mr. Asquith, to which he fittingly responded, and a similar compliment to the Mayor was proposed by Councillor Crow and seconded by Alderman Harbott.

The memorial stone bears the names of the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, K.C., M.P.; Alderman L. W. Spratt, J.P., Mayor; Alderman John Kettle, Chairman of Committee; F. E. Hilleary, LL.D., Town Clerk; A. Cotgreave, Borough Librarian; S. B. Russell, Architect; J. W. Jerram, Builder.

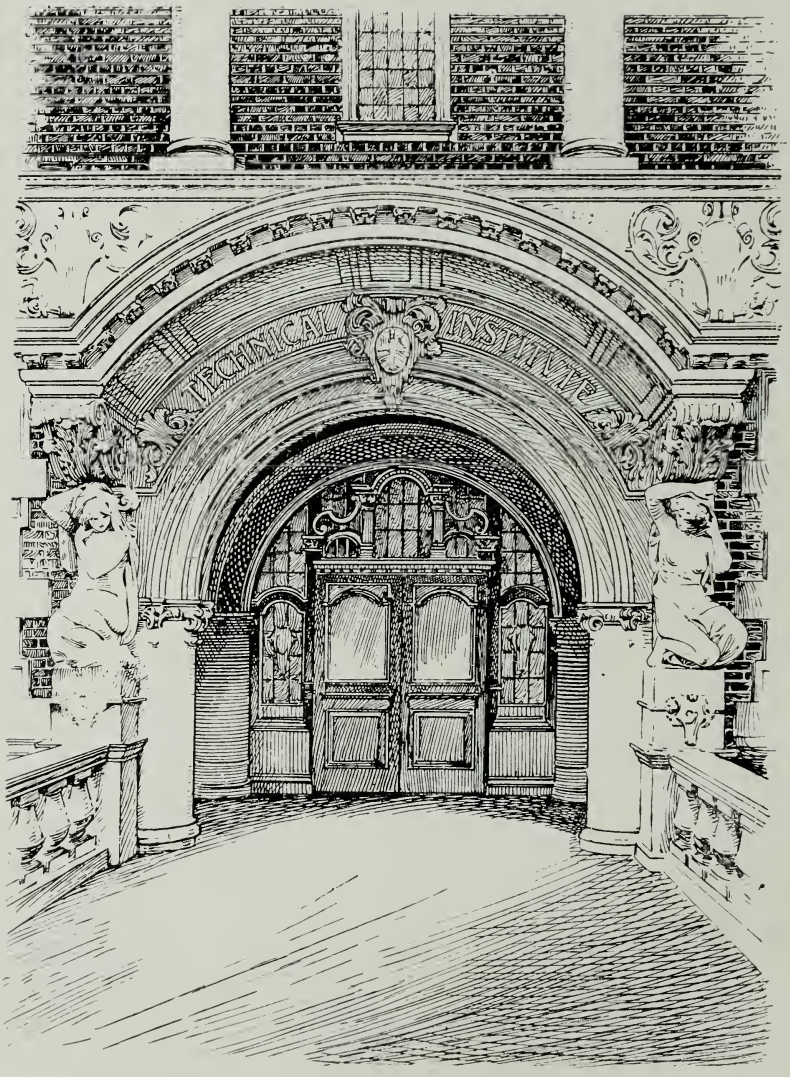
THE PICTURE EXHIBITIONS.

The Annual Art Exhibitions have been a popular feature of the Committee's work during the last nine years. At a meeting of the Public Libraries and Technical Instruction Committee, on January 14th, 1895, it was decided, on the suggestion of Mr. Councillor Alden, to recommend to the Council that a Loan Art Exhibition be held at the Public Hall, Canning Town, from March 27th to April 8th (inclusive), admission to be by Catalogue

COUNCILLOR PERCY ALDEN, M.A., WARDEN OF MANSFIELD HOUSE, 1891-1901. CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, 1896-7.

at a charge of one penny. The Council gave the Committee power to carry out all arrangements, and allowed the cost to be defrayed from the technical instruction funds. Mr. Councillor Alden undertook the management of the exhibition, and, with the aid of Miss Mabelle Pearse, succeeded in bringing together a splendid collection of pictures.

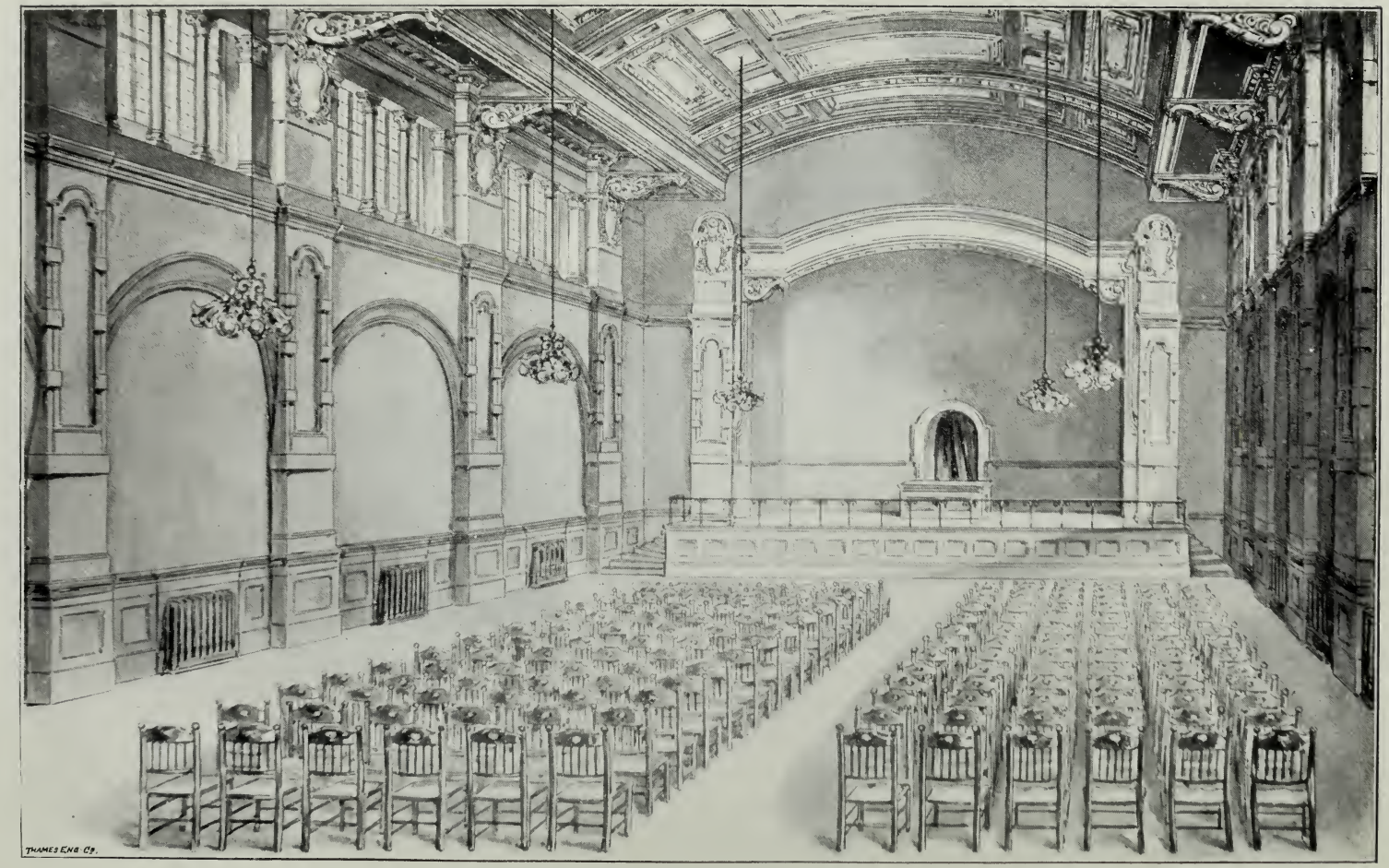
Since then eight Annual Exhibitions have been held, which have been very largely attended. (For this year's Exhibition, see Annual Report further on, page 78.)



MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

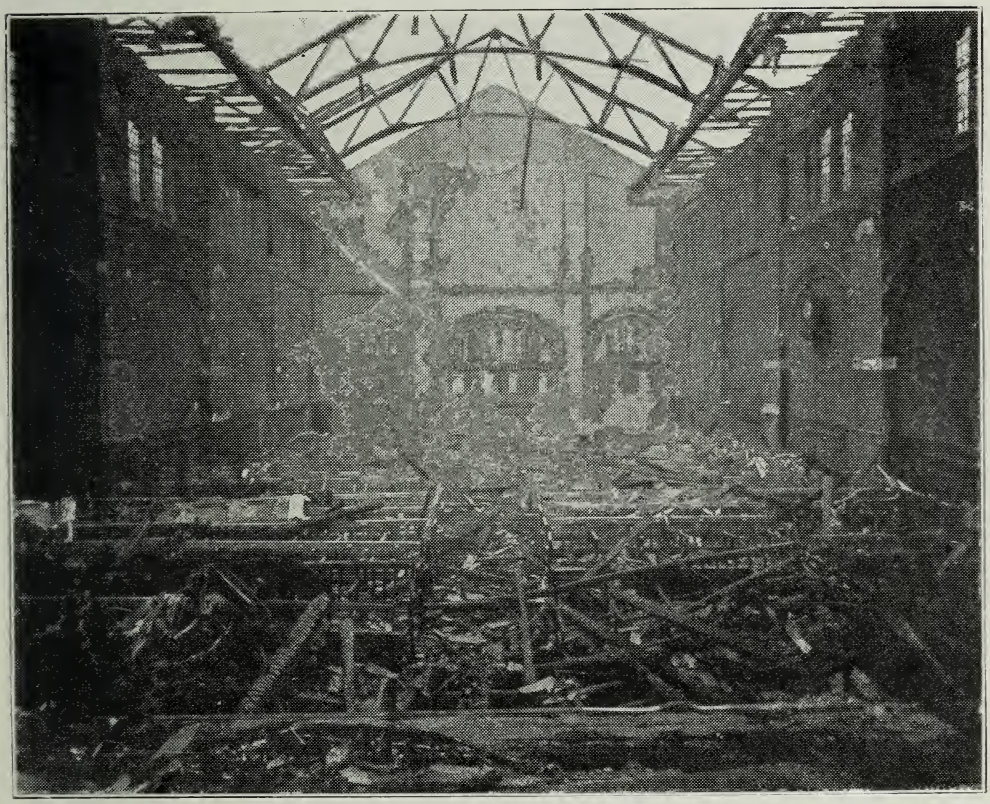
DESIGN STUDIO, TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

CHEMICAL LABORATORY, TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.



LARGE HALL, TECHNICAL INSTITUTE.

APPEARANCE OF THE LARGE HALL
AFTER THE FIRE



The disastrous fire which, in 1899, partially destroyed the Central Library and Technical Institute, has been fully described and lamented on various previous occasions. All that is necessary at this time, therefore, is to assure the numerous friends and well-wishers of these institutions, that no trace now remains of this calamity, but that everything is in full swing, and uninterrupted progress shown in every department.

PASSMORE EDWARDS MUSEUM.

Foundation Stone laid by J. Passmore Edwards, Esq., 6th October, 1898.
Opened by the Countess of Warwick, 18th October, 1900.

HON. CURATOR
(W. COLE, F.L.S., F.E.S.)

WORK OF THE LIBRARIES,

1902-3.

West Ham Public Libraries.

STATEMENT

ON THE

WORK OF THE LIBRARIES,

STATISTICS, ETC.,

FOR

THE MUNICIPAL YEAR, 1902-3.

Officers:

Borough Librarian:—A. COTGREAVE, F.R.Hist.S.
Sub-Librarian:—C. WHITWELL.

Central Library:
Assistant Librarian:—E. F. BUDDERY.
Reference Library Assistant and Clerk:—P. W. BURBIDGE.
Senior Assistant Lending Department:—O. McDOUGALL.
Junior Assistant:—H. J. RIX.
Assistant in charge of Ladies' Room:—Miss MAY ROSE.

Canning Town Branch:
Assistant Librarian in charge:—S. A. HATCHER.
Senior Assistant:—H. W. FRETTEN.
Junior Assistant:—G. C. ANDERSON.

Plaistow Branch:
Assistant Librarian in charge:—D. McDOUGALL.
Senior Assistant:—E. SHARP.

Hall Porters and Caretakers:—
Central Library—G. T. HALL and G. H. NEWBURN.
Canning Town Library—A. T. HARSENT.
Plaistow Library—J. CROSS.

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West Ham Public Libraries.

STATEMENT

ON THE

WORK OF THE LIBRARIES,

STATISTICS, ETC.,

For the Municipal Year, 1902-1903.

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE uninterrupted and continued progress of the Borough Libraries, shown in the following pages, cannot fail to give satisfaction to those to whom their foundation is due, as also to the immense number and variety of readers who so constantly use these institutions, either for purposes of solid study or recreative reading, or to gain some temporary, but withal useful information for immediate needs. While, however, congratulating ourselves on this success, it behoves us to keep in mind the continuous growth of the population, and that every effort should be made to enable our Libraries and other educational institutions to keep pace with it, that the moral and intellectual as well as the physical health of the people should be preserved and invigorated. It will therefore be obvious to most that, although the two large Libraries at Stratford and Canning Town and the smaller one at Plaistow

may to a large extent serve the inhabitants in their own districts, there are other outlying districts like Plaistow which, however, have not been so fortunate, but which, nevertheless, deserve the earliest consideration that ways and means will permit.

Places like East Ham, with a library rate of 1½d. in the £, granted at a poll of the inhabitants, and whose Libraries are all gifts, are in a much better position than West Ham, where the library rate is proportionately much smaller and not sufficient to provide buildings for new Libraries, nor even to enlarge the two main Libraries at Stratford and Canning Town, which will require extension before long if their usefulness is not to be crippled.

But for the loan for the building at Canning Town, which has cost for repayment nearly £500 per annum the last ten years, and will cost the same for the next twenty, unless some good fairy will relieve us of this burden, we could have at once made these extensions and even have built and maintained another Library. However, we must live and hope, and, as in the past so in the future, do our best with what is at our disposal. A considerable source of consolation will be found in the new Library at Plaistow, one of the many kind gifts of Mr. Passmore Edwards to West Ham, which institution will shortly be opened by Mr. Carnegie.

There can be no doubt that this Library, situated in a constantly-growing neighbourhood, will be largely used and very popular, and will be a great boon to one of the outlying parts of the Borough already mentioned, the inhabitants of which are too far away from the existing Libraries to make use of them with advantage.

During the year the attendance in all departments, including Sunday attendance, reached a total of 1,266,898. The previous year's attendance was 1,263,803. The issue of books in all departments, including the Hospitals, was 368,052, as compared with the previous year's issue of 345,702.

The stock of books in the main Libraries and at the Hospitals numbers 61,034, to which may be added some 4,000 volumes procured up to this date for the Plaistow Library. The total stock at the end of the Municipal year, 31st March, 1902, was 59,221.

WORK OF THE LIBRARIES.

Central Library.

The increasing demand for higher-class works is a marked and very gratifying feature of the last year's work, the statistics showing that while there has been a decrease in the issue of works of fiction it has been more than compensated for by the increased issue of educational and other works of a solid character. Several sheaf and wall catalogues have been prepared and placed on the tables and walls for public use, by means of which, in addition to the general printed and card catalogues, "Library Notes," Hand Lists, and guidance and aid of the Staff, every book is brought to the reader's notice, particularly those of an instructive character. Special efforts have been made to increase the use of the Reference Library, which have resulted in an increased issue of nearly 10,000 volumes during the year.

Branch Libraries and other Auxiliaries.

The Canning Town Branch shows a slight decrease in the total book issue, but as it is chiefly in fiction, whereas the issue in the Reference Department has increased, no great amount of regret need be felt. The newsroom attendance has increased substantially and, taking all departments together and considering the improvement in the class of reading, there is every cause to be satisfied with the work of this Library.

The Plaistow Branch Library, which will shortly be opened by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, is so arranged that a perfect oversight will be obtained by the library staff—the lending library being situated in the centre, with glazed partitions between it and the newsroom on one side and the magazine and reference-room on the other. This is a very good arrangement, as economy in the working of this Library is absolutely necessary if it is to be sufficiently supplied with books and other publications required for the public service.

It is hoped that this Library will open with a stock of some 6,000 volumes on the shelves, while the reading-rooms will be supplied with about 150 newspapers, periodicals, and other publications.

Juvenile Libraries.

The two main Libraries contain useful collections of books for young readers of both sexes, numbering nearly 4,000 volumes, and in addition many suitable books in the general collections are lent out to the older boys and girls, both in the Lending and Reference departments. The total issue last year reached nearly 50,000 volumes, of which 38,586 were lent for home reading. A juvenile collection will also be provided at the Plaistow Library.

In addition to the Canning Town and Plaistow Branches, there are small collections of books at the Municipal Hospitals of

Plaistow and Dagenham, which are kindly and ably superintended by Miss Drakard, the Matron, who has acted as Honorary Librarian since they were started. These small libraries are much appreciated by the patients, to whom in their hours of illness and pain the books are real friends.

It may also not be unworthy of note that an effort is made to still further extend the advantages of the Libraries by sending back numbers of newspapers and periodicals to the Union and Hospitals, and by placing in prominent thoroughfares the advertisement sheets of the leading newspapers for the use of those seeking situations. A number of books are also lent and exchanged regularly for the use of the Union Schools.

Borrowers' Tickets.

New tickets to the number of 4,678 have been issued during the year, bringing the total since the first Lending Library was opened in 1894 to 44,011. These tickets are for home reading only, and do not include Reference Library borrowers. A classification of occupations, ages, &c., will be found at pages 96 to 99.

Sunday Opening.

The opening of the large reading rooms on Sunday has been continued during the year, and the attendance is considered good in comparison with several other libraries. The comparison with our own week-day attendance is, however, not altogether favourable. The Sunday attendance at the Central and Canning Town newsrooms combined averaging but 958 per day, while that of the week-day reaches over 4,000. It is to be regretted that the working classes, for whose especial behoof these libraries are opened on Sundays, do not show up in greater numbers; it is however, hoped that the time will come when this privilege will be taken advantage of much more extensively.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

"Library Notes."

The illustrated quarterly magazine, "Library Notes," still continues popular with the readers, its periodical lists of additions, notes on books, index to interesting articles and serial stories contained in the leading magazines taken at the library, etc., being highly appreciated.

The last year's numbers contain a special annotated list of the large and valuable collection of London books in the Reference Library.

The "Subject Index."

Copies of this work have been placed in all departments, and many of the readers have it in constant use, and frequently express their sense of its utility in enabling them to obtain information that they could not find elsewhere. Most of the leading public libraries in the United Kingdom and United States have purchased copies. It is to be regretted, therefore, that more of our well-to-do readers have not supported the Committee in their outlay upon this work by purchasing it, instead of confining themselves to the use of the Library copies, which are placed on the counters and tables for the benefit of the poorer readers, who cannot afford to buy catalogues and other literary guides. The work is not limited in scope to the books of our own libraries, but is found of great use by all who possess it elsewhere. It is offered at a considerable reduction to West Ham readers.

Catalogues.

New and exhaustive catalogues are being compiled for the Central Library, and supplementary ones for Canning Town Branch, and will, it is hoped, be ready for public use in a few months. Owing to the fire, illness and

change among the Staff, work connected with Plaistow Library, and other unavoidable causes, the issue of the catalogues has been greatly delayed. As these difficulties disappear more pressure will be brought to bear upon the work of completing these essential guides.

Hand or Class Lists.

The Special Lists of books, which are printed at intervals and distributed gratis to all who require them, have proved extremely popular and useful to all who are reading up any of the special subjects with which they deal.

THE BOOKS, THE READERS, AND THE STAFF.

Stock of Books.

The number of volumes in stock, 31st March, reached a total of 61,034, the additions during the year amounting to 1,813, of which 901 were donations. (For list of principal additions see pages 79 and 80.) The classification of the stock is given at page 93. The books lost without trace number 5, while those lost or damaged and paid for by borrowers number 22. Through wear and tear 887 volumes have been discarded and replaced with new copies during the year. It is worthy of note that several valuable additions have been made during the year, including supplementary volumes of the "Encyclopædia Britannica." Rose's "Life of Napoleon I," Wright's "English Dialect Dictionary," "*The Times*' History of the War in South Africa," Mackinnon's "Growth and Decline of the French Monarchy," Nicholl's "History of the English Poor Law," Balzac's "Comédie Humaine," Creighton's "History of the Papacy," &c.

The Readers

On the whole the readers have cheerfully conformed to the rules and regulations of the Library, and the good order prevailing in the various departments has often been commended by visitors from other parts of the country.

The following details of the arrangements made for the convenience of the readers may be interesting, and will bear comparing with those of other libraries: 1. Each Burgess rate-payer can not only borrow books on his own responsibility, but can authorize the members of his own family, employees, and others to borrow also, subject only to the ordinary rules and regulations. 2. Each borrower can have four tickets, (*a*) for books of fiction and general literature, (*b*) for general literature only, *e.g.*, history, biography, science, &c., (*c*) for music, (*d*) for reviews and monthly magazines. 3. He is kept informed of all the latest additions to the Library, in connection with many of which descriptive notes are given. 4. He can borrow from any of the libraries. 5. He and his family can use any of the newsrooms, containing altogether some 950 newspapers and periodicals, and all the principal directories, dictionaries, railway and other guides, etc. 6. He has the use of two reference libraries, containing numerous very costly and first-class works on every subject. (It is almost a certainty that West Ham stands alone in having had for several years *two* reference libraries in distinct buildings for the use of the public.) 7. He can have the period of loan extended at time of issue if the book is not in great demand. Before concluding this paragraph a few words concerning the juvenile readers may be of interest, and it is with considerable pleasure that attention is called to the statistical tables at pages 94 and 95, as evincing the popularity of the juvenile departments. We cannot, however, avoid still regretting that the important

proposal made for the formation of school libraries in connection with those of the Borough fell through for want of means. Exhaustive reports and schemes were prepared by the Committee and approved by the Council, and have since, in part, been found worthy of a place in the Government report on this subject, and made use of by other libraries which, possessing the means to successfully carry out the idea, are at this time securing as borrowers, through the medium of the schools, many thousands of boy and girl readers they would otherwise fail to reach, and by this means immensely increasing the value of their libraries as educational and social institutions. When it is considered that in West Ham this development of library work would affect over 50,000 children, some idea of its importance and consequences, if carried out, can be arrived at, and it is sincerely hoped that the time will yet arrive, and shortly, when West Ham will be able to carry into effect this great scheme, many features of which she can at least lay claim to have originated in the plans and recommendations submitted to the Council in January, 1899.*

The Staff. The members of the Library Staff have continued to perform their duties in a creditable manner, and have shown a proper interest in the readers, and a commendable readiness to aid them in selecting books, or in giving them information on any subject. This has been much appreciated, and testified to in several letters which have been received. It is to be regretted that a considerable amount of illness has existed among the assistants, and several changes have recently been made in the *personnel* of the Staff, which will for a certain time increase the difficulties of carrying on the work. It is scarcely necessary to say that as, for the sake of economy, the Staff has been cut down to the bare number necessary to carry

* Could not the new Education Authority do something to further this scheme?

on the immediate duties, the absence of any of them through illness or other causes, and the employment of new and inexperienced assistants, throws the work into arrears, besides which the readers are inconvenienced by not being served so expeditiously.

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, 1902.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

The Annual Meeting of the above Association was held this year at Birmingham, and was attended by the Chief Librarian. The Chairman (Mr. Alderman Kettle), who, together with the Librarian, was appointed to represent the Borough libraries, was unfortunately unable to attend owing to important Corporation business requiring his attention at this time.

The members were received very cordially by Alderman G. J. Johnson, Chairman of the Birmingham Libraries Committee, and afterwards took part in the ceremony of opening a branch reference library, which was supposed to be the first established in the United Kingdom in connection with branch libraries. This idea was however dispelled by the information that West Ham possessed a similar but much larger branch reference library at Canning Town, which had been in work for several years.

The meeting was opened by the President of the Association, Professor W. Macneile Dixon, LITT.D., LL.B., of the

Birmingham University, who, in a most interesting and learned address, commented upon the monotony and stress of modern life among the working and commercial classes, and asserted that reading, even the reading of novels and other works of romance, was absolutely necessary to relieve the strain, and prevent the multitude from rushing to more questionable sources of relief and recreation.

The following papers were submitted and discussed by the members:—"The Birmingham Free Libraries," "Publishers and Publishing," "Note on Experiments at Glasgow Public Libraries," "The Rate Limitation," "The Public Library and Reading Circles," "John Baskerville and His Work," "The Idea of a Great Public Library," and several papers on catalogue methods and other branches of library work.

Probably the two most interesting papers were "The Birmingham Free Libraries" and "The Rate Limitation." In the first named, Mr. Shaw, the Birmingham City Librarian, gave a very interesting history of the progress of the Birmingham Libraries and an account of their system of work, books, &c.; while in the latter paper by Mr. Ballinger, Borough Librarian of Cardiff, and in the discussion which followed, it was claimed that the public libraries should be placed on an equal footing as regards income from rate, &c., with other Municipal departments. It was also pointed out that the rate was fixed at one penny some 40 or 50 years ago without any thought or anticipation of the institution in the future of School Boards and other educational establishments which would conduce to the necessity of reading and increase of readers; the increase of population, competition of foreign nations, &c., in consequence of which a much more liberal support was now required for public libraries

than that originally given in what may almost be called the dark ages.

Much discussion ensued in relation to the gifts of library buildings by Mr. Carnegie, now numbering nearly 150 in this country and nearly 1,000 in America, and it was considered that an immense impetus had been given to the library movement thereby, particularly in districts which were unable to build without inflicting the incubus of a loan upon their limited income, a difficulty which in many cases prevented the adoption of the Libraries Acts previous to Messrs. Carnegie and Passmore Edwards' offers of assistance.

Visits were paid to Shakespeare's birthplace and school and other places celebrated in connection with his life, to Oscott College, Kenilworth and Warwick Castles, and various other historic buildings and towns, where the members were very hospitably entertained. Several of the Birmingham Public Libraries were inspected, and particular notice was taken of one of the last large branch libraries erected, which has adopted new systems of work, including the methods of issuing and recording books in use at West Ham.

During the visit the members received several invitations to social meetings, including one from the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, who gave a reception and ball in honour of the Association, at which over 2,000 persons, including Mr. Joseph Chamberlain and other well-known men, were present.

The Council of the Association stated in their Annual Report that seven members, including the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, Vice-President of the Association, had died since the last annual meeting, that the classes and lectures on library

economy, books, &c., had been successfully carried on, that a large number of towns had adopted the "Acts," that in several towns the rate had been increased, and that the financial statement of the treasurer showed a favourable balance.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

The above Society, which by means of lectures, papers meetings, &c., is doing good work in training assistants, held a meeting at the Central Library in February last, when an interesting paper, entitled: "Some anticipated Developments of Library Practice" was read, to the writer of which the Cotgreave Prize for 1902 was awarded.

PICTURE EXHIBITIONS.

The arrangements for the ninth Annual Picture Exhibition were carried out by five members of the Public Libraries and Technical Instruction Committee, who formed the Picture Exhibition Sub-Committee, with Mr. A. E. Briscoe, Principal of the Technical Institute, as Hon. Secretary.

As was the case last year, Mrs. G. Unwin (Miss F. M. Pearse) and Mr. G. V. Cox, resident-in-charge of Mansfield House University Settlement, undertook much of the actual work of getting the exhibits together. The task of obtaining fresh pictures every Easter is by no means an easy one, and exceptionable difficulties have been encountered this year, but in spite of this pictures to the number of 229 have been brought together; among these are some from the best artists of the day, including works by Val. Prinsep, A.R.A., Vicat Cole, R.A., H. Stacey Marks, R.A., Sir L. A. Tadema, R.A., the late T. S. Cooper, R.A., and others. The Exhibition will be opened at the Public Hall, Canning Town, on April 9th, by His Worship the Mayor of West Ham (Mr. Alderman J. Kettle, J.P.). After being on view for eighteen days at Canning Town, the pictures will then be transferred to the Town Hall, Stratford. Here the Exhibition will be opened on May 1st by Mr. Councillor J. Williams, Chairman of the Public Libraries and Technical Instruction Committee.

The pictures will be on view at Stratford until the 18th of May, and it is confidently anticipated that the two Exhibitions will be visited, as in previous years, by large numbers of people.

Principal Additions during the Year 1902-1903.

AMERY (L. S.), *Ed.*, "The Times" History of The War in South Africa, Vols. 1 and 2, 1902.

ARMSTRONG (W.), The Thames from its Rise to the Nore, 2 Vols.

AUSTEN (J.), Works, 10 Vols., 1898.

AVEBURY (Lord [Sir John Lubbock]), The Scenery of England, 1902.

BALZAC (H. de), Comédie Humaine, 40 Vols., 1895-8.

BARNARD (F. P.), *Ed.*, Companion to English History, 1902.

BARTLETT (W. H.), Scenery and Antiquities of Ireland, N.D.

BEDDARD (F. E.), Mammalia [Cambridge Natural History], 1902.

BELLOC (H.), Robespierre, a study, 1901.

BESANT (Sir W.), Autobiography, 1902.

BESANT (Sir W.), East London, 1901.

Bibliographica: Papers on Books, their History and Art, 3 Vols., 1895-7.

BREWER (E. C.), The Reader's Handbook, 1902.

BROWN (J. D.) and MOFFATT (A.), Songs and Dances of all Nations, 1901.

BRYCE (J.), The Holy Roman Empire, 1901.

BURTON (J. H.), History of Scotland, 8 Vols., 1897-1901.

Cambridge Bible for Schools, Y.D.

CARNEGIE (A.), The Empire of Business, 1902.

CASSELL'S Picturesque Canada, 2 Vols.

CHEYNE (T. K.) and BLACK (J. S.), *Eds.*, Encyclopædia Biblica, Vol. 3, 1902.

CRAWLEY (E.), The Mystic Rose, 1902.

CREIGHTON (M.), History of the Papacy, 6 Vols., 1899-1901.

DAVITT (M.), The Boer Fight for Freedom, 1902.

DEXTER (H. M.), Congregationalism of the last Three Hundred Years, 1879.

EGERTON (H. E.), Short History of British Colonial Policy, 1897.

Encyclopædia Britannica: Supplementary volumes.

FERRYMAN (A. F. M.), Annals of Sandhurst, 1900.

GORDON (C.), The Old Bailey and Newgate.

GOULD (S. B.), Garland of Country Song, 1895.

GOULD (S. B.), Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, 1897.

GOULD (S. B.), Study of St. Paul, 1897.

GREEN (J. R.), Letters, 1902.

HARMSWORTH (A. C.), Motors and Motor-Driving, 1902.

HASTINGS (J.), *Ed.*, Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 4, 1902.

HAYDEN (E. G.), Travels round our Village, 1901.

HAZLITT (W. C.), The Venetian Republic, 2 Vols., 1900.

HEDIN (Sven), Through Asia, 2 Vols., 1898.

HELMONT (Dr. H. F.), *Ed.*, The World's History, Vol. 4, 1902.

HENSMAN (H.), Cecil Rhodes, a Study of a Career, 1901.

HOLME (C.), *Ed.*, Modern Etching and Engraving, 1902.

HOLMES (O. W.), Complete Works, 13 Vols., 1891.

JAY (H.), Life of Robert Buchanan, 1903.
JUPP (E. B.), Account of the Company of Carpenters, 1887.
KIDD (B.), Principles of Western Civilization, 1902.
KINGSTON (A.), East Anglia and The Great Civil War, 1897.
KROPOTKIN (P.), Mutual Aid, 1902.
MACKINNON (J.), Growth and Decline of the French Monarchy, 1902.
MAGNUS (L.), *Ed.*, National Education, 1901.
MILTON (J.), Paradise Lost, Illustrated by G. Doré.
MORLEY (J.), Oliver Cromwell, 1900.
MORRIS (W.), Architecture, Industry and Wealth, 1902.
NICHOLLS (Sir G.), History of the English Poor Law, 2 Vols., 1898.
OPPER (F.), Our Antediluvian Ancestors, 1903.
PATERSON (A.), Oliver Cromwell, His Life and Character, 1899.
PEARCE (E. H.), Annals of Christ's Hospital, 1901.
PENNELL (J. and E. R.), Lithography and Lithographers, 1898
POWELL (B. H. B.), Indian Village Community, 1896.
REID (W.), William Black, Novelist, 1902.
ROSEBERY (Lord), Napoleon: the Last Phase, 1900.
ROSE (J. H.), Life of Napoleon I, 2 Vols., 1902.
SIMON (Sir J.), English Sanitary Institutions, 1897.
SIMS (G. R.), Living London, 3 Vols., 1902-3.
SMITH (C. F.), Mary Rich, Countess of Warwick, 1901.
STUBBS (C. W.), In a Minster Garden, 1902.
SYDNEY (W. C.), England and the English in the Eighteenth Century, 2 Vols., 1892.
TENNYSON (A.), Vivien and Guinevere, illustrated by G. Doré, 1867.
VINCENT (W. T.), Records of the Woolwich District, 2 Vols.
WALKER (J.), Introduction to Physical Chemistry, 1901.
WALLACE (Sir D. M.), The Web of Empire, 1902.
WALLAS (G.), Life of Francis Place, 1898.
WARD (A. W.), *Ed.*, Cambridge Modern History, Vol. 1, 1902.
WATNEY (J.), Account of St. Osyth's Priory, Essex, 1871.
WOODWARD (H. B.), Geology of England and Wales, 1876.
WRIGHT (A.) and SMITH (P.), Parliament Past and Present, 1902.
WRIGHT (J.), The English Dialect Dictionary, Vols. 1-3, 1898-1902.

List of Donors.

Books.

	VOLS.
Agent-General for New Zealand	7
Agent-General for Queensland	2
Agent-General for Western Australia	1
Anonymous	2
Baptist Union, London ...	1
Barrett (F. T.), *Author*, Glasgow	1
Belleroche (E.), Belgium, per Huguenot Society	1
Bennett & Co., *Publishers*, Birmingham	1
Benson (J. W.), *Publishers* ...	6
Board of Advertising, Isle of Man	1
Board of Trade	4
British Museum	39
Browne (Mrs. W P.), *Author*	1
Buckley (T. J. W.), *Publisher*, London	5
Canadian Government... ...	2
Clarke (P. & H.), Caterham Valley	200
College of Preceptors, London	1
Cotgreave (A), West Ham ...	3
Cunard Steamship Company, Liverpool	1
Deal Corporation	1
Denny (U. B.), *Author*, London	1
Duncan (J.), *Author*, Forest Gate	1
Durham University	1
Edwards (A), Stratford ...	42
Edwards (late G.C.), Stratford	224
Faith Press, Ltd., *Publishers*, Malvern Links	2
Greenwood (W. N.), *Author*, Lancaster	2
H.M. King Edward VII ...	1
H.M. Patent Office	116
H.M. Stationery Office ...	5
Hilcken (G. F.), Bethnal Green	1
Hill (H M.), *Author*, Leytonstone	1
Hosie (J.), Kendal	1
Howe (T.), *Author*, Woodford	2
Hunt (C. H.), *Author*, Bootle	1
Inkster (L.), *Author*, Battersea	1
Institute of Naval Architects	1
Kent (J.), Forest Gate ...	3
Lardner (J. E.), Stratford ...	7
Layton (C. & E.), *Publishers*, London	1
London Corporation	4
London County Council ...	4
London School Board	6
Lord's Day Observance Society	1
Lucas (L. A.), *Author*, Egham	1
McCall (G. H.), *Author*, Limehouse	1
Macdonald & Co., *Publishers*, London	2
Macmillan & Co., *Publishers*, London	32
Mather & Crowther, *Publishers*, London	1
Mitchell & Co., *Publishers*, London	2
"Morning Post," London ...	1
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, London	1
North Eastern Railway Company	2
North-West Ham Free Church Council	1
Ogden (H. J.), *Author*, Manchester	4

	VOLS.
Rationalist Press Association	15
Sims (J.), Stratford	2
Single (T.), Stratford	44
Snowsill (W. G.), *Author*, Camberwell	1
Sparke (A.), *Author*, Bury ...	1
Spottiswoode & Co., *Publishers*, London	1
Stratford Co-operative Society	2
Stubbs & Co., *Publishers*, London	1
Thom & Co., *Publishers*, Dublin..	1
Thompson (W. P.), *Author*, London	1
Trinity College, London	2
Turner (A.), Poplar	2
Ulster Unitarian Society ...	1
University Correspondence College, Cambridge	3
Wallas (G.), *Author*, London	1
West Ham Corporation ...	8
West Ham School Board ...	7
Wilton (Mrs.), Stratford ..	50
Wolfsteig (Prof.), Berlin ...	1

Catalogues and Reports of Public and other Libraries.

Where merely the name of the town or locality is given, it signifies that the Library is a Public or Municipal one bearing the name given.

Aberdeen
Accrington
Ashton-under-Lyne
Aston Manor
Ayr
Barrow-in-Furness
Belfast
Birmingham
Blackburn
Blackpool
Bootle
Boston
Bournemouth
Bradford
Brentford
Bristol
Bromley
Burnley
Bury
Buxton
Cambridge
Canterbury, New Zealand, Canterbury College
Cardiff
Cheltenham
Chicago, U.S.A., John Crerar Library
Clitheroe
Croydon
Darlington :—
  Edward Pease Public Library
Derby
Dewsbury
Dundee
Dunkinfield
Ealing
Eastbourne
Falmouth
Folkestone
Glasgow :—
  Municipal Libraries
  Stirling's and Glasgow Public Libraries
Gloucester
Gosport and Alverstoke
Hanley
Hartlepool
Hereford
Hindley
Holyhead

Hove
Hyde
Illinois, U.S.A. :—
  Evanston Public Library
  Peoria Public Library
Jedburgh
Kettering
Kidderminster
Kimberley, S.A.
Kingston-upon-Thames
Leeds
Leek
Leicester
Lincoln
Liverpool
London :—
  Battersea
  Bishopsgate Institute
  Bow
  Camberwell
  Chelsea
  Chiswick
  Finsbury
  Fulham
  Hammersmith
  Hornsey
  Kensal Rise
  St. Bride's Institute
  Shoreditch
  Stoke Newington
  Westminster (including St. George, Hanover Square, and St. Martin's)
  Willesden (including Harlesden, Kilburn, and Willesden Green)
Longton
Loughborough
Manchester
Massachusetts, U.S.A. :—
  Salem Public Library
Middlesborough
Newark-upon-Trent : —
  Gilstrap Public Library
Newcastle
New York, U.S.A. :—
  Enoch Pratt Public Library
  New York Public Library
Norwich
Norwich, U.S.A. :—
  Otis Free Library
Ohio, U.S.A. :—
  Oberlin College
Oldham :—
  Oldham Lyceum
Penarth
Perth
Plymouth
Redruth
Richmond-upon-Thames
Rochdale
Rothwell
Rugby
Runcorn
St. Helen's
St. Louis, U.S.A. :—
  Mercantile Library Association
  St. Louis Public Library
Salford
Smethwick
South Shields
Southampton
Stafford
Stratford-upon-Avon :—
  Shakespeare Memorial Library
Sydney, N.S.W.
Tokio, Japan : —
  Imperial Library
Tottenham
Twickenham
Tynemouth
Walthamstow
Watford
Wednesbury
West Bromwich
West Hartlepool
Whitehaven
Wigan
Wimbledon
Wolverhampton
Worcester
Workington
Yarmouth
York

Miscellaneous Pamphlets and Reports.

Advertising Bureau, Guernsey
Agent-General for Queensland
Anglo-Russian Literary Society
Bell (R.), Canada
Belleroche (E.), Belgium
Caledonian Railway Company
Canadian Government
Cazalet (E. A.), Herts
Clowes & Sons, *Publishers*, London
Coulton (J. J.), Pentney, Norfolk
Davidson (M.), *Author*, London
East End Emigration Fund
Essex Field Club
Falmouth Corporation
Graham (J.) West Ham
Imperial South African Association
Leaver (J.), Forest Gate
Leeds Technical Institute
Maurice (C.), Hampstead
Moon (Z.), Leyton
South-Eastern Railway Company
Pitman & Co., *Publishers*, London
Wallas (Graham), London
Watts & Co., *Publishers*, London

Periodicals.

Alison (Mrs.), Stratford. "Christian Science Sentinel"
Barcher (C. J.), Canning Town "Catholic Times."
Bumpus (J. & E.), London. "Literary News."
Cotgreave (A.), West Ham. "Library Assistant"; "Library World."
Cranfield (H. P.), Forest Gate. "Civil Service Competitor."
Crow (Mrs.), Stratford. "Wings."
Cummins (W. H.). "Bible Advocate."
Deason (C.) "The Democrat."
Essex Field Club. "Essex Naturalist."
Frisby (A.), London. "Brotherhood."
Hall (Rev. G.), Plaistow. "Helping Hand."
Harris (A.) "Forest Gate Parochial Magazine."
Hills (A. F.), Canning Town. "Thames Iron Works Gazette."
House (J. L.), Plaistow. "Shop Assistant."
Mansfield House University Settlement. "Mansfield House Magazine."
Roser (Mr.), Tidal Basin. "Son of Temperance."
Sanders (Dr. C.), Forest Gate. "British Medical Journal."
Single (T.), Stratford. "English Churchman."
Smith (Councillor Enos), Forest Gate. "Forest Gate Magazine."
Smith (T. P.), West Ham. "Christian Endeavour Times."
Stratford Co-operative Society. "Co-operative News"; "Stratford Co-operator."
Truslove & Bray, West Norwood. "Norwood Press."
Tucker (G.), West Ham. "Cadets' Own."
Turner (A.), Poplar. "The Faith."
Turner (J. S.), West Ham. "Wings."
Union of Ethical Societies, London. "Ethics."
Universal Brotherhood (Forest Gate Lodge). "The New Century"; "Universal Brotherhood Path."
Wagner (L.), Forest Gate. "Society and Dramatic World."
Waterman (T. G. W.). Poplar. "Shepherd's Magazine."
Whitwell (F. E.), Forest Gate. "West Ham Teacher's Journal."
Williams (G.), Stratford. "Animal World," 2 copies.
Wimborne (Lady), London. "Ladies' League Gazette"

N.B.—A large number of Periodicals presented by the Publishers will be found in the list of papers and periodicals taken, denoted thus *

List of Newspapers and Periodicals.

The asterisk (*) before the name of any paper denotes that it is supplied to the Library by the publisher, or some other donor, free of charge.

Daily.

	Central.	Branch.		Central	Branch.
Birmingham Post ..	1	1	Manchester Guardian ...	1	1
Daily Chronicle	3	3	Morning Advertiser ...	1	1
Daily Express	1	1	Morning Leader... ...	1	1
Daily Graphic	2	1	Morning Post	2	1
Daily Mail	2	2	Newcastle Daily Chronicle	1	1
Daily News	3	2	Nottingham Express ...	1	1
Daily Telegraph... .	3	3	Pall Mall Gazette ...	1	1
East Anglian Daily Times	1	—	St. James's Gazette ...	1	—
Echo	1	2	Scotsman	1	1
Evening News	2	2	Shipping Gazette ...	1	2
Evening Standard ...	2	1	South Wales Daily News	—	1
Financial News	1	—	Standard	2	1
Financial Times... . .	1	—	Star	2	2
Freeman's Journal ...	1	1	Sun	1	1
Glasgow Herald... ...	1	1	Times	1	1
Globe	1	1	Western Mail	1	1
Leeds Mercury	1	1	Westminster Gazette ...	1	1
Liverpool Courier ...	1	1			

Weekly.

Academy	1	1	*Bakers' Times	1	1
*Alliance News	1	1	Barking Advertiser ...	1	2
Amateur Gardening ...	1	1	*Barking Advertiser ...	—	1
*Anglo-African Argus ...	1	—	*Bible Advocate... ...	1	1
Architect	1	—	Black and White ...	1	1
*Aspirant...	1	1	*Blackpool Herald ...	1	—
Athenæum	1	1	*Blackpool Times ...	1	—
Athletic News	1	1	*Board of Trade Journal	1	—
*Australian Trading World	1	—	Boy's Own Paper ...	—	1

	Central.	Branch.
British and Colonial Printer and Stationer	1	1
*British Architect ..	1	1
*British Australasian ..	1	—
British Journal of Photography	—	1
*British Medical Journal	1	—
*Broad Arrow	1	1
Builder	1	1
Building News	1	1
*Canadian Gazette ...	1	1
Cardiff Times	1	—
*Carpenter and Builder...	1	1
*Catholic Times	1	1
*Charity Record... .	1	—
Chemical News... ..	1	1
*Christian	1	—
*Christian Budget ...	1	—
*Christian Endeavour Times	1	—
*Christian Life	1	—
*Christian Science Sentinel	1	1
Christian World ...	1	1
Church Times	1	1
*Civilian	1	1
*Civil Service Candidate	1	—
*Civil Service Competitor	1	1
*Civil Service Gazette ..	1	1
*Civil Service Weekly ..	1	—
Clarion	2	1
Contract Journal ...	1	1
*Contractor's Chronicle	1	—
*Co-operative News ...	1	1
Country Life	1	—
*County Gentleman ...	1	—
Cycling	1	1
*Dalton's House and Apartment Advertiser	1	1
*District Times	1	—
*Draper	1	1
*Drapers' Record ..	—	1
Drapers' Record ...	1	—
*East End News (Tuesday)	—	1
*East End News (Friday)	—	1
*East Ham and Barking Free Press	1	—
*East Ham Echo... .	1	1
*East Ham Recorder ...	1	—

	Central.	Branch
*East London Advertiser	—	1
East London Observer...	1	1
*Eastern Mercury ...	1	—
Electrical Engineer ...		1
Electrical Review ...	1	1
*Electrician	1	—
Electrician	—	1
Engineer...	1	1
Engineering	1	1
*English Churchman ...	1	—
English Mechanic ...	1	1
Era	1	1
Essex County Chronicle	1	2
*Essex County Chronicle	1	—
*Essex Guardian... ...	1	—
*Essex Times	—	1
*Essex Weekly News ...	1	—
Essex Weekly News ..	1	2
Ethics	1	—
*Ethics	2	1
Exchange and Mart ...	3	3
Fairplay...	1	1
*Family Churchman ...	1	—
*Farm, Field and Fireside	1	1
Field	1	—
Fishing Gazette... ...	1	1
*Football Chat	1	1
*Freethinker	1	—
Garden	1	—
Gardener's Chronicle ...	1	1
Gentlewoman	1	1
*Golfing	1	—
*Good Templar's Watchword	1	—
Graphic	2	2
Great Thoughts ...	1	—
Grocer and Oil Trade Review	1	1
Guardian	1	1
Hearth and Home ...	1	1
Home Chat	1	—
Home Notes	1	—
*Hospital...	1	2
*Ilford Guardian ...	—	1
Illustrated London News	2	2
Illustrated Mail ...	2	—
*Illustrated Official Journal (Patents)	1	1
Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News ...	1	—

	Central.	Branch.
*Insurance Monitor ...	1	1
*Investor's Guardian ...	1	—
Irish Times	1	1
Iron Age...	1	—
Iron and Steel Trades Journal	—	1
*Jewish World	1	—
Journal of Gas Lighting	1	1
Journal of the Society of Arts	1	—
Judy	1	1
Justice	1	1
*Justice	1	1
Labour Leader	1	1
Labour News	—	1
Ladies' Field	1	—
Lady	1	1
Lady's Pictorial ...	1	1
Lancet	1	—
Leytonstone Express ...	1	2
*Leytonstone Express ...	2	1
*Licensing World . .	1	—
Literary World... ...	1	1
Lloyd's Weekly News...	1	1
*Local Government Chronicle	1	1
*Local Government Journal	1	—
*London Argus	1	1
*L.C.C. Minutes and Cash Paper	1	1
*London School Board Report...	1	—
Mechanical World ...	—	1
*Model Engineer and Electrician	1	—
Municipal Journal and London	2	1
Nature	1	1
*Naval and Military Record	1	—
Naval and Military Record	—	1
Navy and Army Illustrated	1	—
*New Century	1	1
Newsagent & Bookseller	1	—
*Newsagent & Bookseller	1	1
*Norwood Press	1	—
Notes and Queries ...	1	1

	Central.	Branch.
Pearson's Weekly ...	1	—
People	—	1
*Phonetic Journal ...	1	1
Photographic News ..	1	—
Poultry	1	—
*Presbyterian	1	—
*Public Health Engineer	1	—
Public Opinion	1	—
*Publisher's Circular ...	1	1
Punch	2	2
Queen	1	1
*Railway Review ...	1	1
Revue des deux Mondes	1	—
*Reynolds's Newspaper	1	1
*Richmond and Twickenham Times	1	—
Sanitary Record ...	1	—
Saturday Review ...	1	1
Schoolmaster	1	1
Schoolmistress	1	1
*Shoe & Leather Record	—	1
Shoe & Leather Record	1	—
*Shop Assistant	1	—
Sketch	1	—
South Africa	1	—
South Essex Mail ...	6	4
South London Press ...	1	—
*South London Press ..	—	1
*Southend Echo	—	1
Spectator	1	1
Sphere	1	—
Stage	1	1
Stock-keeper	1	—
*Stock-keeper	—	1
Stratford Express (Wednesday)	2	2
*Stratford Express (Wednesday)	4	—
Stratford Express (Saturday)	2	2
*Stratford Express (Saturday)	5	1
Sunday Sun	—	1
*Sunday Times	—	1
Syren	1	1
T.P.'s Weekly	1	—
Tablet	1	1
Teachers' Aid	1	1
*Timber	1	1
*Timber Trades Journal	1	—

	Central.	Branch.
*Tobacco Weekly ...	1	—
To-day	1	—
Truth	1	1
*University Correspondent	1	1
*Vegetarian	1	—
Weekly Dispatch ..	—	1
*Weekly Dispatch ...	1	—
Weekly Times and Echo	1	1
*West Africa	1	—
*West Ham Gazette ...	4	2
*West Ham Town Council Reports of Committees, Minutes, and Agenda	3	3
Woman	—	1
Woman's Life	1	—
Work	1	—
World	1	1
Yachtsman	—	1

Monthly.

*Agricultural Economist	—	1
Aldersgate	—	1
*All the World	1	1
*Animal World	1	1
*Animal's Friend ...	1	—
Antiquary	1	—
Architectural Review ...	—	1
*Arms and Explosives ...	1	1
Army List	—	1
Art Journal	1	1
Atlantic Monthly ...	1	—
Badminton Magazine ...	1	—
*Band of Hope Chronicle	1	1
Blackwood's Magazine	1	—
Bookman	1	—
Bookseller	1	1
Boy's Own Paper ...	1	1
*British Refrigeration ...	1	—
*Brotherhood	1	1
*Business Life	1	1
*Cadet's Own	1	1
Cassell's Magazine ...	1	1
Century Magazine ...	1	1
Chambers's Journal ...	1	1
*Child's Guardian ...	1	1
*Christian Science Journal	1	1
*Church Intelligencer ...	1	—
*Church Missionary Gleaner	1	—
*Church Missionary Intelligencer	1	—
*Clerk of Works Association Record	1	—
*Commonwealth	1	1
*Concord	1	—
Connoisseur	1	—
Contemporary Review...	1	1
Cornhill Magazine ...	1	1
*Debrett's Coming Events	1	—
*Deceased Seamen ...	1	1
*Dramatic World ...	1	1
English Illustrated ...	1	1
*Epicure	1	—
Ex Libris Society Journal	1	—
Expositor	1	1
*Faith	1	1
*Faraday House Journal	1	—
*Fire and Water... ...	1	1
*Food and Cookery ...	1	—
*Forest Gate Magazine ..	3	3
*Forest Gate Parochial Magazine	2	2
Fortnightly Review ...	1	1
Gentleman's Magazine...	1	—
Geographical Journal ...	1	
Girl's Own Paper ...	1	1
Good Words	1	1
*Grocer's Assistant ...	1	—
Harmsworth Magazine	1	1
Harper's Magazine ...	1	1
*Helping Hand	2	2

	Central.	Branch.
*Herald of the Golden Age	1	—
House	1	1
*Humanitarian	1	—
Idler	1	1
I.L.P. News	1	1
*Insurance Agent's Review	—	1
*Inventors' Review	1	1
Knowledge	1	1
*Labour Gazette	1	1
*Ladies' League Gazette	1	1
Lady's Realm	1	—
Lady's World	1	—
Land and Labour	—	1
*Land Values	1	—
Leisure Hour	1	1
*Liberty Review	1	—
Library Assistant	1	1
Library Association Record	1	—
Library Journal	1	—
Library World	1	1
*Literary Guide	1	—
*Literary News	1	—
*London, Seaside and Country	1	1
Longman's Magazine	1	1
Macmillan's Magazine	1	1
Magazine of Art	1	—
Magazine of Commerce	1	—
*Mansfield House Magazine	2	2
*Marine Engineer	—	1
Marine Engineer	1	—
*Modern Medicine	—	1
*Musical Herald	—	1
*Musical Times	1	1
Myra's Journal	1	1
*National Friendly Societies' Review	1	—
National Review	1	1
*Nature Notes	1	—
*Navy League Journal	1	1
*New Church Magazine	—	1
New Liberal Review	1	—
Nineteenth Century	1	1
*Otis Library Bulletin	1	—
*Our Western Empire	1	—
Pall Mall Magazine	1	1
*Patents	1	1
Pearson's Magazine	1	1
*Periodical	1	—

	Central.	Branch.
Photogram	1	—
Playgoer	1	—
*Plumber and Decorator	1	—
*Positivist Review	1	1
Practical Photographer	1	—
Printing World	1	—
*Printing World	—	1
*Protestant Observer	1	—
Protestant Observer	—	1
Public Libraries	1	—
Quiver	1	1
*Rechabite Magazine	1	1
Reformer	1	—
Review of Reviews	1	1
Royal Magazine	1	1
Sandow's Magazine	1	—
Science Abstracts	1	—
Scribner's Magazine	1	—
*Shepherd's Magazine	—	1
*Smithfield Illustrated Monthly	1	—
*Social Democrat	1	1
Social Democrat	1	1
*Son of Temperance	1	1
*State Correspondent	1	1
Strand Magazine	1	1
*Stratford Co-operator	2	2
Studio	1	1
Sunday at Home	1	1
Sunday Magazine	—	1
*Tea	1	—
Teacher's Monthly	1	—
*Technical Education Gazette	1	1
*Temperance Record	—	1
Temple Bar	1	1
Temple Magazine	1	—
*Things to Come	1	1
*Thoughts from the Word of God	1	—
*Travel	1	—
*Universal Brotherhood Path	1	1
Westminster Review	1	—
Wide-World Magazine	1	—
Windsor Magazine	1	1
*Wings	1	1
Woman at Home	1	—
World of Dress	1	—
Young Man	1	—
Young Woman	1	—
*Zoophilist	1	1

Quarterly.

	Central.	Branch.
*Academic Gazette ...	1	—
Archæological Journal...	1	—
Army List	1	—
Art Workers' Quarterly	1	—
Brain	1	—
Dublin Review	1	—
Economic Review ...	1	—
Edinburgh Review ...	1	—
*Emigration Circu'ars ..	50	50
*Essex Review	1	—
Essex Review	1	1
Flying	1	—
Home Counties Magazine	1	—
Index to Times (Palmer's)	1	—
International Journal of Ethics	1	—
Library	1	—
*Lifeboat Journal ...	1	—
Mind	1	—
Monist	1	—
Navy List	1	1
Post Office Guide ...	1	1
Quarterly Review ...	1	—
Reliquary	1	—
*Thames Ironworks Quarterly Gazette	1	—
*Tuberculosis	1	—
*United Temperance Gazette	1	1
*West Ham Library Notes	3	3
*West Ham Teacher's Journal	1	—

Annual.

	Central.	Branch.
Academy Pictures ...	1	1
*Annual Insurance Digest	—	1
Annual Register ...	1	—
Argus Guide to Municipal London	1	—
Art Annual	1	1
*Baptist Handbook ...	1	—
Book Prices Current ...	1	—
*Calendar of College of Preceptors	1	—
Cambridge University Calendar	1	—
Civil Service Year Book	1	—
*Co-operators' Year Book	1	1
Customs Year Book ...	1	—
Daily Mail Year Book...	1	1
*Durham University Calendar	1	—
Easter Art Annual ...	1	1
Electrical Undertakings	1	—
Englishwoman's Year Book and Directory...	1	—
*Express & Independent Almanack	2	—
Financial Reform Almanack	1	—
*Greenwood's Nautical Almanack	1	1
Hazell's Annual... ...	1	1
Inland Revenue Year Book	1	—
Jewish Year Book ...	1	—
Literary Year Book ...	1	—
Local London	1	—
London Charities ...	1	1
London Manual ...	1	—
*London Matriculation Directory	1	—
London University Calendar	1	—
*London University Guide	1	1
Municipal Year Book ...	1	1
Oxford University Calendar	1	—
Pall Mall Pictures ...	1	1
Pears' Annual	1	—
*Post Magazine Almanack & Insurance Directory	1	1

	Central.	Branch.
Reformer's Year Book...	1	1
Review of Reviews Index	1	—
*St. Albans Diocesan Calendar	—	1
Schoolmaster's Year Book	1	1
Statesman's Year Book	1	—
Stock Exchange Year Book	1	1
*Trinity College (London) Calendar	1	1
*West Ham and Stratford Almanack	2	2
*West Ham Herald Almanack	1	1
*West Ham School Board Report	3	2
Whitaker's Almanack...	1	1
Who's Who?	1	1
Year's Art	1	—

Directories.

	Central.	Branch.
Bedfordshire	1	—
*Bennett's Business Directory	1	—
Berkshire	1	—
*Birmingham Trades ...	1	—
Birmingham & Suburbs	1	1
Bristol	1	—
*British Mercantile Guide	1	–
*Browne's Advertiser's A B C	1	1
Buckinghamshire ...	1	—
Cambridge, Norfolk, and Suffolk	1	—
Catholic Directory ..	1	1
Clergy List	1	—
Cornwall...	1	—
County Councils Companion, &c.	1	1
Crockford's Clerical ...	1	1
Derbyshire	1	—
Devonshire and Cornwall	1	—
Directory of Directors...	1	—
Durham	1	—
Electrical Engineers' Directory	1	—
Electric Lighting and Electric Traction Directory	1	—
Engineers, Iron and Metal Trades ...	1	—
Essex, Herts., and Middlesex	1	1
Gloucester	1	—
Hampshire	1	—
Huntingdonshire ...	1	—
Ilford	1	1
*Insurance Directory ...	1	1
Kent, Surrey, and Sussex	1	1
Law List...	1	1
*Layton's Handy Newspaper List	1	—
Leather Trades' Directory	1	1
Leeds and Bradford ...	1	—
Leicestershire	1	—
Liverpool & Birkenhead	1	—
Liverpool and Suburbs	1	1
Local Government Directory	1	—
London (Post Office) ...	1	1
London (Suburban) ...	1	1
Manchester, Salford and Suburbs	1	1
Medical Directory ...	1	1
*Mercantile International Directory	1	—
Merchants, Manufacturers and Shippers...	1	1
*Mitchell's Press... ...	1	1
*National Trades Directory	1	—
Northamptonshire ...	1	—
Nottinghamshire ...	1	—
Oxfordshire	1	—

	Central.	Branch.
*Practical Advertising ...	1	—
Royal Blue Book	1	1
Rutland	1	—
*Sell's World's Press	1	1
Somerset ...	1	
Staffordshire	1	—
Stationers, Publishers, &c.	1	—
Stratford, West Ham, Forest Gate & Plaistow	2	1
Stubb's Directory of Manufactures ...	1	—
Walthamstow, Leyton, and Leytonstone ...	1	1
*Willing's Press Guide...	1	1
Woodford, Wanstead, and Snaresbrook ...	1	1
Worcestershire	1	—
Yorkshire	1	—

Time Tables.

	Central.	Branch.
A B C Railway Guide ...	1	1
*Belfast and Northern Counties	1	—
Bradshaw's Railway Guide	1	1
*Caledonian	1	1
*District	1	1
*Glasgow and South Western	1	—
*Great Central	1	1
*Great Eastern	1	1
*Great Northern ...	1	1
*Great Western	1	1
*London & North Western	1	1
*London & South Western	1	1
*London, Brighton and South Coast	1	1
*London, Tilbury and Southend	1	1
*Metropolitan	1	—
*Midland	1	1
*North British	1	1
*North Eastern	1	1
*South Eastern & Chatham	1	1

Stock & Classification of the Books

Central Library.

Class.	Lending Library.	Reference Library.	Totals.
Theology, &c.	1,076	714	1,790
Biography...	1,278	1,058	2,336
History	841	1,791	2,632
Voyages and Travels	1,069	2,183	3,252
Law, Politics, &c.	729	1,165	1,894
Arts and Sciences	1,955	4,737	6,692
Prose Fiction	5,617	—	5,617
Poetry, Classics, &c.	834	1,399	2,233
Miscellaneous and Magazines ...	2,138	5,507	7,645
Juvenile Literature	2,316	—	2,316
Music	401	—	401
Totals	18,254	18,554	36,808

Canning Town Branch Library.

Class.	Lending Library.	Reference Library.	Totals.
Theology, &c.	768	420	1,188
Biography...	1,129	303	1,432
History	701	876	1,577
Voyages and Travels	903	303	1,206
Law, Politics, &c.	434	232	666
Arts and Sciences	1,680	1,649	3,329
Prose Fiction	4,100	—	4,100
Poetry, Classics, &c.	722	270	992
Miscellaneous and Magazines ...	1,914	1,370	3,284
Juvenile Literature	1,454	—	1,454
Music	456	—	456
Totals	14,261	5,423	19,684

The following figures show the present distribution of the Stock:—

Location.	Lending Library.	Reference Library.	Totals.
Central Library	18,254	18,554	36,808
Canning Town	14,261	5,423	19,684
Plaistow Hospital	—	1,096	1,096
Dagenham Hospital	—	409	409
In Store	—	3,037	3,037
Totals	32,515	28,519	61,034

Tables of Issues.

Central Reference Library.

WEEKDAYS

Period.	Days Open.	Theology, &c.	Biography and History.	Voyages and Travels.	Law, Politics, &c.	Arts and Sciences.	Poetry, Classics, &c.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Totals.	Daily Averages.
April, 1902 ...	26	121	245	726	325	1403	78	1819	4717	181
May	26	126	218	719	345	1379	150	1954	4891	188
June	23	105	175	609	286	1138	90	1649	4052	176
July	27	100	143	796	363	1360	89	1953	4804	178
August ...	24	125	171	642	322	1087	84	1607	4038	168
September ...	26	111	271	740	338	1519	183	1885	5047	194
October ...	27	149	309	742	409	1468	146	2059	5282	196
November ...	25	143	258	713	352	1470	99	1844	4879	195
December ...	25	176	142	687	362	1324	120	1793	4604	184
January, 1903	27	194	233	742	398	1623	144	1830	5164	191
February ...	24	134	246	808	362	1517	149	1740	4956	207
March... ...	26	148	337	881	417	1723	148	1710	5364	207
Totals ...	306	1632	2748	8805	4279	17011	1480	21843	57798	189

Central Lending Library.

Period.	Days Open.	Theology, &c.	Biography and History.	Voyages and Travels.	Law, Politics, &c.	Arts and Sciences.	Prose Fiction.	Poetry, Classics, &c.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.	Daily Averages.
April, 1902	21	92	408	255	86	623	8269	129	926	1884	234	12906	615
May ...	22	94	412	244	94	549	8386	134	988	2097	252	13250	602
June ...	19	78	267	200	68	416	6505	122	709	1735	178	10278	541
July ..	22	119	301	214	80	457	7208	123	789	1793	222	11306	514
August ...	12	79	187	108	56	275	4130	63	512	983	169	6562	547
September	22	139	332	219	109	620	8068	128	859	1959	279	12712	578
October ...	22	172	442	229	165	678	8991	167	983	2069	282	14178	644
November..	21	150	442	232	141	690	8574	163	927	2260	270	13849	659
December...	20	132	353	221	136	545	7851	122	885	2174	236	12655	633
January, '03	23	193	395	263	165	719	9406	171	956	2485	275	15028	653
February ...	20	151	371	239	141	678	8651	148	857	2322	271	13829	691
March	22	160	387	220	133	661	9041	141	916	2659	287	14605	664
Totals ...	246	1559	4297	2644	1374	6911	95080	1611	10307	24420	2955	151158	614

Tables of Issues.

Canning Town Branch Reference Library.

WEEKDAYS.

Period.	Days Open.	Theology, &c.	Biography and History.	Voyages and Travels.	Law, Politics, &c.	Arts & Sciences	Poetry, Classics, &c.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Totals.	Daily Averages.
April, 1902	26	113	417	113	282	625	76	1153	2779	107
May	26	104	382	126	296	517	75	1133	2633	101
June	23	91	354	109	242	423	67	962	2248	97
July	27	113	328	121	285	558	102	1041	2548	94
August...	24	106	369	107	252	522	100	1026	2482	103
September	26	116	440	141	278	609	110	1238	2932	113
October	27	92	584	155	305	671	104	1377	3288	122
November	25	108	605	129	275	621	96	1482	3316	133
December	25	113	678	123	288	601	84	1392	3279	131
January, 1903... ...	27	115	769	128	296	663	99	1610	3680	136
February	24	88	757	141	264	625	97	1456	3428	143
March	26	92	704	148	282	572	89	1512	3399	131
Totals	306	1251	6387	1541	3345	7007	1099	15382	36012	118

Canning Town Branch Lending Library.

Period.	Days Open.	Theology, &c.	Biography and History.	Voyages and Travels.	Law, Politics, &c.	Arts and Sciences.	Prose Fiction.	Poetry, Classics, &c.	Miscellaneous Literature.	Juvenile Literature.	Music.	Totals.	Daily Averages.
April, 1902 ..	21	188	539	332	115	658	4394	229	859	1619	276	9209	438
May	22	136	504	333	104	599	3886	164	826	1349	227	8128	369
June	19	87	307	168	43	359	3042	102	556	819	136	5619	296
July	22	76	330	180	52	400	3512	100	590	984	136	6360	289
August	12	65	197	162	43	315	2107	90	390	542	117	4028	336
September ...	22	145	403	262	81	575	4103	161	741	1031	238	7740	352
October	22	149	469	264	83	599	4258	215	844	1119	224	8224	374
November ...	21	136	445	255	74	512	4035	150	760	1212	179	7758	369
December ...	20	92	405	229	57	469	3790	132	687	1233	188	7282	364
January, 1903 ...	23	113	500	289	92	597	4618	152	889	1441	198	8889	386
February ...	20	118	460	305	95	545	4099	151	788	1359	193	8113	406
March	22	140	503	317	87	608	4411	184	867	1458	184	8759	398
Totals ...	246	1445	5062	3096	926	6236	46255	1830	8797	14166	2296	90109	366

Classification of Borrowers

ADDED DURING 1902—1903.

(*For Classification of Borrowers in previous years, see Reports for such years.*)

Central and Branch Lending Libraries.

OCCUPATIONS.

	Central.	Branch.
Accountants	18	—
Actor	1	—
Agents (Miscellaneous)...	15	6
Analyst	1	—
Apprentices (Miscellaneous)	26	16
Architect	1	—
Artists and Engravers ...	3	—
Assistants (Miscellaneous)	15	4
Attendants	3	—
Auctioneer	1	—
Auditor	1	—
Bakers and Confectioners	23	3
Bank Clerks	13	—
Barge and Boat Builders	—	2
Blacksmiths	2	4
Blind Maker	—	1
Boat Builder	—	1
Boiler Makers	8	11
Bookbinders and Folders	5	5
Book-keepers	7	1
Bootmakers	1	5
Boxmaker	1	—
Brassfounder	—	1
Brass Workers	—	2
Bricklayers	2	4
Builders and Contractors	17	1

	Central.	Branch.
Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers	1	1
Candle Maker	1	—
Card Writer	1	—
Caretakers	2	4
Cargo Superintendent ...	—	1
Carmen	—	5
Carpenters and Joiners...	22	14
Cashiers	19	3
Checkers	—	3
Chemists	1	1
Church Worker	—	1
Civil Service Officials ...	14	1
Cleaner and Charwoman	1	—
Clergymen and Ministers	25	4
Clerks (General)	374	95
Clothiers and Outfitters	1	1
Coachbuilders	3	—
Coachman	—	1
Coachpainters	2	—
Coal Merchant	1	—
Collectors...	6	5
Colour Maker	1	—
Commercial Travellers ...	25	4
Conductors	11	1
Coopers	—	5
Coppersmiths	—	2

	Central.	Branch.
Cork Worker	—	1
Corn Dealer	—	1
Cranemen	—	2
Customs Officers	29	4
Cutter	1	—
Cycle Makers	5	2
Dairymen, Milkmen and Assistants	1	2
Dentist	1	
Docker	—	1
Drapers and Milliners	14	4
Draughtsmen	4	6
Dressmakers	56	14
Drillers	—	10
Driver	—	1
Electricians	5	4
Engine Cleaner	—	1
Engine Drivers	1	7
Engineers (Miscellaneous)	25	39
Estate Agents and Rent Collectors	1	1
Erector	1	—
Errand Boys	9	—
Factory Hands	3	11
Firemen	3	4
Fitters	7	5
Flag Maker	—	1
Florist	1	—
Foremen and Managers	40	11
Frame Maker	1	—
French Polisher	—	1
Fruit Salesman	1	—
Furniture Dealers	2	—
Gardeners	2	—
Gas Fitters	3	—
Gas Stoker	—	1
Gas Workers	1	3
Gate Keepers	—	2
Gilder	1	—
Glass Blowers	—	5
Glove Cleaner	1	—
Gold Blocker	1	—
Grain Weighers	—	2
Grainer	1	—
Greengrocer	1	—
Grocers	6	11
Groom	—	1
Gymnastic Director	1	—
Hairdressers	5	4

	Central.	Branch.
Hammerman	—	1
Hatters and Hosiers	3	—
Home (Domestic)	575	126
Housekeepers	3	8
Housemaid	1	—
Indiarubber Workers	—	3
Inspectors (not specified)	3	—
Instrument Makers	1	1
Insurance Agents	6	12
Ironfounders	1	1
Ironmongers	5	1
Jewellers & Watchmakers	6	1
Journalists	3	—
Labelers	2	—
Labourers (General)	26	99
Lady Clerks	10	—
Laundress	—	1
Law Writer	1	—
Lead Burner	1	—
Leather Seller and Worker	—	1
Librarians and Assistants	5	1
Licensed Victuallers	—	3
Lighterman	1	
Lithographer	—	1
Machinists	8	9
Machine Men	5	—
Manageress	1	—
Manufacturers	2	
Marine Engineers	3	1
Masons	3	1
Mat Makers	—	5
Match Makers	—	2
Matrons	—	2
Medical Practitioners	10	1
Medical Students	2	—
Mechanic	1	—
Merchant	1	—
Messengers	39	23
Millwright	—	1
Missionaries	2	3
Moulders	—	4
Musicians and Music Teachers	4	2
Needle Workers	—	2
No Occupation	21	32
Not stated	14	51
Office Boys	1	7
Oilmen	5	—

	Central.	Branch.
Ornamental Japanner ...	1	—
Overseer	1	—
Packers	5	2
Pages	—	2
Painters and Decorators	6	18
Pattern Makers	1	2
Pensioners	—	2
Perfumers	2	—
Photographers	3	—
Physicians and Surgeons	7	1
Pianoforte Tuners ...	3	—
Platers	—	10
Plumbers	6	5
Police Constables ...	—	6
Police Sergeants	—	2
Polishers	2	—
Porters	7	5
Postmen	5	4
Post Office Officials ...	3	—
Potboy	—	1
Printers and Compositors	26	12
Publisher	1	—
Railway Servants ...	3	3
Relief Stamper	1	—
Revenue Officers... ...	2	—
Retired	20	—
Rug Maker	—	1
Ruler	1	—
Salesmen	3	2
Salvation Army Captain	1	—
Sampler	1	—
Sanitary Inspectors ...	2	2
Scholars and Students ..	648	381
School Attendance Officer	—	1
Schoolmasters, Schoolmistresses and Teachers	611	76
Seamen and Mariners ...	7	5
Secretaries	7	—
Servants (Domestic) ...	10	6
Shipwrights	1	9
Shop Assistants	10	12
Shopkeepers	1	7
Shorthand Writers and Typists	61	2

	Central.	Branch.
Signalmen	3	—
Sign Writers	1	5
Slater	1	—
Smith	—	1
Soap Maker	—	1
Solicitors	5	—
Sorters	—	2
Stationers...	5	—
Stevedores	1	6
Steward	1	—
Stock-keeper	—	1
Stokers	1	2
Stonemasons	1	1
Storekeepers	—	10
Sugar Boiler	—	1
Superintendents	4	—
Tailors	1	1
Tailoresses	7	2
Telegraphists	8	3
Telephone Operator ...	—	1
Tie Maker	—	1
Timekeepers	2	2
Tinsmiths...	—	2
Tobacconists and Assistants	13	—
Trimmers	2	—
Turners	2	4
Undertaker	1	—
Vanboys	1	1
Vanman	1	—
Verger	—	1
Veterinary Surgeons ...	2	—
Waiters and Waitresses	5	2
Warehousemen	18	3
Watchman	—	1
Watermen	—	2
Weigher	—	1
Wharfinger	—	1
Wheelwright	1	—
Wireworker	—	1
Wood Carver	1	—
Wood Chopper	—	1
X-Ray Specialist ...	1	—

Age of Borrowers.	Central Library.	Canning Town.
Under 15 years of age	699	418
Between 15 and 21 years of age	739	320
Over 21 years of age	1,812	690
	3,250	1,428

Sex of Borrowers.		
Males	1,790	975
Females	1,460	453
	3,250	1,428

Burgesses	739	339
Non-Burgesses	2,437	1,065
Music	74	24
	3,250	1,428

Total Tickets Issued since Opening of First Library.

Males	26,974
Females	17,037
	44,011

General Attendance.

	Central Library.	Canning Town Branch.	Totals
Reference Libraries	31,338	34,388	65,726
Lending Libraries	146,158	86,870	233,028
Newsrooms	429,311	495,736	925,047
Ladies' Room	21,122	—	21,122
Plaistow Hospital	—	—	16,425
Dagenham Hospital	—	—	5,550
	627,929	616,994	1,266,898

Daily Average Attendance (week days) 4,154
,, ,, (Sundays) 958

Financial Statement (Approximate) for the year ended 31st March, 1903.

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Books	812	10	8
Binding, &c.	58	18	2
Newspapers and Periodicals... ...	289	14	6
Lighting, Water, &c.	368	19	4
Printing, Stationery, and Miscellaneous Expenses	386	17	9
Printing "Library Notes," &c. ...	87	5	0
Salaries and Wages	1,985	9	7
Costs in connection with acquisition of Land—Plaistow Library ..	36	8	10
CAPITAL CHARGES:—			
Dividends on £8,800 West Ham Corporation Three per cent. Stock	264	0	0
Contribution to Sinking Fund for Redemption	184	19	4
	4,475	3	2
Income in excess of Expenditure for the year, carried down	690	16	4
	£5,165	19	6
Balance at 31st March, 1903 ...	733	12	2
	£733	12	2

Income.	£	s.	d.
Rate for year ended 31st March, 1903	4,610	0	0
Receipts—"Subject Index" ...	34	19	5
Fines, &c.	190	4	9
Sale of Catalogues, &c.	5	4	9
Sale of Tickets, Book Covers, &c. ...	20	1	2
Sale of "Library Notes"	7	15	11
Advertisements in "Library Notes"	65	10	0
Transfer from Fire Re-instatement Account—being balance unexpended, now appropriated towards cost of replacing worn-out Books	232	3	6
	£5,165	19	6
Balance at 1st April, 1902	42	15	10
Income in excess of Expenditure for the year, brought down ...	690	16	4
	£733	12	2

Memoranda.

GENERAL.

Population of the Borough of West Ham (approximate)	*300,000
Area of the Borough	4,706 acres
Districts included in the Borough of West Ham :	Stratford, Forest Gate, Canning Town, Plaistow.
Public Libraries Act adopted	November, 1890
First Library Committee appointed	13th Jan., 1891
First Librarian appointed...	9th June, 1891
Temporary Library (Stratford) opened	30th July, 1892
Foundation Stone of the Canning Town Library laid	18th July, 1892
Canning Town Library opened	28th Sept., 1893
Foundation Stone of Central Library and Technical Institute laid	29th Oct., 1896
Central Library and Technical Institute opened ...	6th Oct., 1898
Central Library and Technical Institute partially destroyed by fire	23rd Oct., 1899
Central Lending Library re-opened after the fire ...	19th March, 1900
"Passmore Edwards" Museum opened by the Countess of Warwick...	18th Oct., 1900
Memorial Stone of Plaistow Library laid	29th Oct., 1902
Total Stock of Books	61,034
Total number of Papers, Periodicals, Annuals, &c., taken ...	994
Total Borrowers' Tickets issued	44,011

ITEMS FOR THE YEAR 1902-1903.

Total issue of Books for the year	346,077
General Attendance for the year	1,266,898
Number of Books bound and repaired by the Binders ...	1,787
Number of Books repaired by the Staff	2,378
Number of applications for overdue Books	2,329
Percentage of Readers borrowing Educational Works ...	65·6

* Owing to the character of West Ham, which is largely maritime, the above figures are considered to be under the actual population.

Library Publications, &c.

Central Library Catalogues: General, 1/6; Juvenile, Boards, **2**d.; Cloth, **8**d.

West Ham Herald.—"We need only say that these Catalogues quite come up to the standard of excellence we have learned to expect in our Free Library publications."

West Ham Guardian.—"They have been classified in such a manner that any book can be found with a minimum of trouble. The excellent innovation has been made of giving contents of Magazines."

Canning Town General Catalogue, Boards, **6**d.; Cloth, **1**/-

Saturday Review.—"The General Catalogue of the Canning Town Library is one of the best books of its kind we have examined. We have had to comment with some severity of late years upon the slovenly preparation and confused method of various Public Library Catalogues. It is the more pleasant, therefore, to find this work admirable in arrangement, and remarkable for clearness and simplicity of treatment."

Canning Town Juvenile Catalogue, Boards, **3**d.; Cloth, **6**d.

The Athenæum.—"It is well arranged, with short descriptive notes and Subject Index."

Literary World.—"The Juvenile Catalogue of the West Ham Public Libraries might well serve as a model for future works of this kind."

London.—"This Catalogue will add greatly to the value of the Juvenile Library. Biographical and other notes have been inserted, and important articles included in many interesting works are catalogued under their respective subject headings, rendering an otherwise dry catalogue both interesting and instructive."

Subject Index to the Contents of the Books in the West Ham Public Libraries. Price to the General Public, in Cloth, **10/6**; in Boards, **7/6**. To Library Readers, in Cloth, **2/6**; in Boards, **1/-**; in Parts, **6**d.

Prof. Dziatzko, University Library, Gottingen.—"It is a most useful work."

W. Beer, Esq., Librarian, Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans. "I am delighted with your excellent Index."

Saturday Review.—"It represents a vast amount of work, and will be prized by students of Current Literature."

The Academy.—"Every entry is a piece of special information, and as there are many thousand entries in this book, we consider that the author has done a great service to literary workers and students."

Literature.—"This is a work which deserves a welcome. The arrangement is good, and particularly the way in which the reader is guided to references on different aspects of a question."

West Ham Library Notes (published quarterly), **1**d.; Annual Subscription, **6**d.

Educational Review.—"'Library Notes' contains descriptive notes of fresh additions to the Libraries, and also a list of interesting articles in current magazines and reviews. We congratulate the West Ham Library on the issue of this comprehensive, yet concise, journal, and express the hope that other Public Libraries will follow the example; for, as yet, we believe there are but few libraries which have adopted this admirable plan."

Literary World.—"The Committee of the West Ham Public Libraries are a progressive body. Their latest departure is 'West Ham Library Notes,' to deal exclusively with the libraries and library matters."

List of 5,000 of the most Popular Books in the Libraries, 1½d.

Indicator Key to Fiction in the Canning Town Library, Boards, **2**d.

Indicator Key to Juvenile Books in the Canning Town Library, Paper, **2**d.

Special Report, 1892, Paper, **1**d.

General Report, 1890-95, with Supplementary Catalogue, Paper, **3**d.

Annual Reports, 1895—1901-2, Paper, **1**d. each.

Literary World.—"The West Ham Public Libraries Report is very complete and encouraging. It is mainly statistical and analytical in its presentation of facts."

West Ham Herald.—"The Report of the Public Libraries presents us with an interesting account of the Public Library movement in West Ham. It is made additionally useful by the compilation of a number of lists and tables. These tables are extremely interesting."

Souvenir of the Opening of the Technical Institute and Central Public Library. Paper, **2/6**; Cloth, **5/-**.

West Ham Public Library Hand-Lists, gratis.

The Hand-Lists give full lists of books on various important subjects, such as Electricity, Natural History, Social Science, Transvaal, &c.

Combined Book Cover, Book Mark, and Satchel (Price, according to size).

The Library (Official Organ of the Library Association). "If Public Library readers could be persuaded to purchase this book cover it would treble the life of Lending Library books, and, indeed, it might be a good investment for a wealthy library to distribute them on loan; but for private users of books it is an admirable contrivance."

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